



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

g1517d

New York District

Food & Drug Administration
300 Pearl Street, Suite 100
Buffalo, NY 14202

July 20, 2001

WARNING LETTER NYK 2001-100

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Thomas Carman, CEO
Cortland Memorial Hospital
134 Homer Avenue
Cortland, New York 13045

RE: Facility ID Number 158949

Dear Mr. Carman:

Your facility was inspected on July 16, 2001 by a representative of the New York State Department of Health, acting on behalf of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This inspection revealed serious regulatory problems involving the mammography at your facility.

Under a United States Federal law, the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992, your facility must meet specific requirements for mammography. These requirements help protect the health of women by assuring that a facility can perform quality mammography. The inspection revealed the following repeat Level 2 finding at your facility:

- ***Failure to produce documents verifying the interpreting physician, [REDACTED] M.D., met the continuing education requirement of having taught or completed at least 15 category 1 continuing medical education units in mammography in 36 months.***

The specific problem noted above appeared on your MQSA Facility Inspection Report which was issued to your facility at the close of the inspection. This problem is identified as a repeat Level 2 because it identifies a failure to meet a significant MQSA requirement and it indicates a failure by your facility to implement permanent correction of a problem found during your previous inspection.

Because this condition may be symptomatic of serious underlying problems that could compromise the quality of mammography at your facility, it represents a violation of the law which may result in FDA taking regulatory action without further notice to you. These actions include, but are not limited to, placing your facility under a Directed Plan of Correction, charging your facility for the cost of on-site monitoring, assessing civil money penalties up to \$10,000 for each failure to substantially comply with, or each day of failure to substantially comply with MQSA standards, suspension or revocation of your facility's FDA certificate, or obtaining a court injunction against further mammography.

It is necessary for you to act on this matter immediately. Please explain to this office in writing within fifteen (15) working days from the date that you receive this letter each step your facility is taking to correct these violations and to prevent the recurrence of similar violations. Your response should include documents that demonstrate proper record keeping.

In addition, your response should address the Level 2 findings that were listed on the inspection report provided at the close of the inspection. The Level 2 findings are:

- *Failure to establish and comply with a written and documented system for collecting and resolving consumer complaints.*
- *Failure to produce documents verifying the interpreting physician, [REDACTED], M.D., met the continuing experience requirement of having interpreted or multi-read 960 mammograms in 24 months.*
- *Failure to produce documents verifying the interpreting physician, [REDACTED], M.D., met the initial experience requirement of having interpreted or multi-read 240 mammograms in 6 months.*
- *Failure to produce documents verifying the interpreting physician, [REDACTED], M.D., met the initial requirement of having 40 hours of medical education in mammography prior to April 28, 1999.*
- *Failure to produce documents verifying the interpreting physician, [REDACTED], M.D., met the continuing experience requirement of having interpreted or multi-read 960 mammograms in 24 months.*
- *Failure to perform the annual medical audit and outcome analysis for the facility as a whole.*
- *Failure to designate an audit (reviewing) interpreting physician for the facility.*

Please submit your response to the above issues to the attention of Lisa M. Utz, Compliance Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 300 Pearl Street, Suite 100, Buffalo, NY 14202, telephone (716) 551-4461 ext. 3117.

Finally, you should understand there are many FDA requirements pertaining to mammography. This letter pertains only to findings of your inspection and does not necessarily address other obligations you have under the law. You may obtain general information about all of FDA's requirements for mammography facilities by contacting the Mammography Quality Assurance Program, Food and Drug Administration, P.O. Box 6057, Columbia, Maryland 21045-6057 (1-800-838-7715), or through the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov>.

Sincerely,



Edward W. Thomas
Acting District Director

Cortland Memorial Hospital

Page 3

cc: Priscilla F. Butler, M.S.
Director, Breast Imaging Accreditation Programs
Standards and Accreditation Program
American College of Radiology
1891 Preston White Drive
Reston, VA 22091

cc: Gerald O'Connor
New York State Department of Health
Flanigan Square
Room 530
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

cc: Vidya Goyal
NYS Department of Health
Central Field Office
217 S. Salina Street
Syracuse, New York 13202