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Food and Drug Administration
Nashville District Office
297 Plus Park Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37217

September 27, 1999

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

WARNING LETTER-99-NSV-24

FACILITY ID# 198168

Kennedy Croom
Administrator
Rhea Medical Center
7900 Rhea County Hwy
Dayton, TN 37321

Dear Mr. Croom:

Your facility was inspected on September 21, 1999, by a representative of the State of Tennessee, on contract to the Food and Drug Administration. This inspection revealed that your facility failed to comply with the Quality Standards for Mammography (Standards) as specified in Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 900.12, as follows:

Level 1

1. Phantom QC records were missing for 6 weeks for unit 1: [REDACTED]
Mammography Suite.

Level 2

2. The interpreting physician did not meet the continuing experience requirement of having read or interpreted 960 patient examinations in a 24-month period: [REDACTED]
3. 2 of 5 random reports reviewed did not contain an assessment category for site: **Rhea Medical Center**

These specific deficiencies appear on the Post Inspection Report, which was given to your facility at the close of your inspection. These deficiencies are symptomatic of serious problems that could compromise the quality of mammography at your facility and potentially overexpose both patients and employees involved with mammography.

It is your responsibility to ensure adherence to each requirement of the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 (MQSA) and FDA's regulations. You are responsible for investigating and determining the cause of these deficiencies that the inspection identifies and to promptly initiate permanent corrective actions.

Rhea Medical Center

If you fail to properly address these deficiencies, FDA may, without further notice, initiate regulatory action. Under MQSA, FDA may:

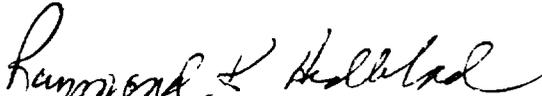
- impose civil money penalties on a facility of up to \$10,000 for each failure to substantially comply with, or each day of failure to comply with the Standards.
- suspend or revoke a facility's FDA certificate for failure to comply with the Standards.
- seek an injunction in federal court to prohibit any mammography activity that constitutes a serious risk to human health.

Within 15 working days after receiving this letter, you should notify FDA in writing of each step your facility is taking to prevent the recurrence of similar violations.

If your facility is unable to complete the corrective actions within 15 working days, you should state the reason for the delay and the time within which the corrections will be completed.

Your reply should be directed to Joseph E. Hayes, Compliance Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 297 Plus Park Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee 37217, telephone 615/781-5389, extension 125. Any questions in regard to this letter or how to ensure you are meeting MQSA standards, please call Karen Smallwood, Radiation Specialist, at 615/781-5380, extension 144.

Sincerely,


Raymond K. Hedblad
Director, Nashville District

RKH/ks

cc: State of Tennessee

Melissa Wolford, Environmental Assistance Center, 540 McCallie Avenue, Suite 550
Chattanooga, TN 37401-2013