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Food and Drug Administration
Detroit District
1560 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207-3179
Telephone: 313-226-6260

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

WARNING LETTER
2000-DT-09

February 01, 2000

Mr. Rodney Coats,
Administrator
Washington County Memorial Hospital
P.O. Box 171
911 N. Shelby Street
Salem, IN 47167

Dear Mr. Coats:

We are writing you because on January 27, 2000, your facility was inspected by a representative of the State of Indiana, acting in behalf of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA). The inspection revealed a serious regulatory problem involving the mammography at your facility.

Under a United States Federal law, the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 (MQSA), 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 level 1 findings at your facility:

1. Phantom quality control records were missing for four (4) weeks for the [REDACTED] mammography system.

The specific problem noted above appeared on your MQSA Facility Inspection Report (copy enclosed), which was issued at the close of the inspection. These problems are identified as level 1 because they identify a failure to meet a significant MQSA requirement.

Because these conditions may be symptomatic of serious underlying problems that could compromise the quality of mammography at your facility, they represent a violation of 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 MQSA standards, suspension or revocation of your facility's FDA certificate, or obtaining a court injunction against further mammography.

In addition, your response should address the Level 2 finding that was also listed on the inspection report provided to you at the close of the inspection. This Level 2 finding is:

[REDACTED] random mammography reports did not contain an assessment category.

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 you received this letter:

- the specific steps you have taken to correct the Level 1 violation noted in this letter;
- each step your facility is taking to prevent the recurrence of similar violations; and
- equipment settings (including technique factors), raw test data, and calculated final results, where appropriate;
- sample records that demonstrate proper record keeping procedures, if the findings relate to quality control or other records. (Note: Patient names or identification should be deleted from any copies submitted.)

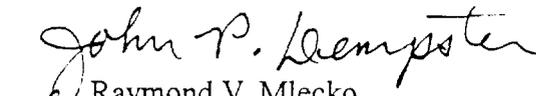
Please submit your response to: Mr. David M. Kaszubski
Director Compliance Branch
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
1560 East Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48207

Please note that FDA regulations do not preclude a State from enforcing its own State mammography laws and regulations. In some cases, these requirements may be more stringent than FDA's. When you plan your corrective actions, you should consider the more stringent State requirements, if any. You should also send a copy to the State of Michigan radiation control office that conducted the inspection referenced in this letter. You may choose to address both the FDA and any additional State requirements in your response.

Finally, you should understand that there are many FDA requirements pertaining to mammography. This letter only pertains to findings of your inspection and does not necessarily address other obligations you have under 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, MD 21045-6057 (1-800-838-7715) or through the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov>.

If you have more specific questions about mammography facility requirements, or about the content of this letter, please feel free to contact Mr. Dennis E. Swartz, Radiological Health Expert, at 313-226-6260 Ext. 155.

Sincerely yours,


for Raymond V. Mlecko
District Director
Detroit District

Enclosures:a/s