



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Atlanta District Office

HFI-35
m332607

60 Eighth Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

March 7, 2000

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Stephanie S. Baggett
Mammography Technologist
Walton Medical Center
330 Alcovy Street
Monroe, GA 30655

Inspection ID: 1790850006

WARNING LETTER
(00-ATL-32)

Dear Ms. Baggett:

Your facility was inspected on 2/28/00 by a representative of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Radiation Protection, acting on behalf of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This inspection revealed that your facility failed to comply with certain Quality Standards for Mammography as specified in Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 900.12, as follows:

Processor QC records were missing 6 consecutive days for [REDACTED] processor # 000000001, model [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] located in the mammography darkroom.

Processor QC records were missing 9 out of 21 days of operation (43%) during July of 1999.

The specific deficiencies noted above appeared under the Level 1 heading on your MQSA Facility Inspection Report, which was issued at the close of the inspection. These deficiencies may be symptomatic of serious underlying problems that could compromise the quality of mammography at your facility.

In addition, your response should address the Level 2 noncompliance items that were listed on the inspection report. The Level 2 noncompliance items are:

Corrective actions for processor QC failures were not documented at least once for the processor listed above.

Mammograms were processed in the above processor when it was out of limits on 3 days.

The inspection also identified Level 3 noncompliance items as follows:

The fixer retention QC, repeat analysis QC, and the darkroom fog QC are not adequate in that they were not done at the required frequency.

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 causes of the deficiencies that the inspection identifies and promptly initiating permanent corrective actions.

If you fail to promptly correct 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 substantially 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.

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 action(s), therefore, you should consider the more stringent State requirements, if any.

Within 15 working days after receiving this letter, you should notify FDA in writing of:

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

If your facility is unable to complete the corrective action within 15 working days, you should state the reason for the delay and the time within which corrections will be completed. Please send the original copy of your response to:

Serene A. Kimel, Compliance Officer
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
60 8th St., NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

With a copy to:

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Division of Radiation Protection
2 Peachtree St.
Suite 33-285
Atlanta, GA 30303

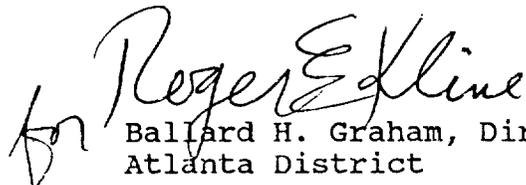
and

Thomas Clarida
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5701 Executive Center Drive, Suite 104
Charlotte, NC 28212

(NOTE: If phantom image is required for corrective action, please submit original to Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Radiation Protection.)

You may choose to address both FDA and state requirements in your response. If you have any questions regarding this letter or how to ensure you are meeting MQSA standards, please feel free to contact Thomas Clarida at 704-344-6116.

Sincerely yours,


for Roger E. Kline
Ballard H. Graham, Director
Atlanta District

Cc: Ms. Priscilla F. Butler, M.S., FAAPM, FACR
Director
Breast Imaging Accreditation Programs
1891 Preston White Drive
Reston, Virginia 20191