NURSING CARE FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING I-125 SEED BRACHYTHERAPY

If the following guidelines and maximum daily exposure times are followed, nursing personnel may adequately care for I-125 seed brachytherapy patients and still remain below acceptable UCDHS and state limits for exposure to ionizing radiation.

A. Every patient receiving I-125 seed therapy should remain in his/her room. A single room is desirable but double room occupancy is allowed if external exposure measurements are low enough.

B. Patients are allowed visitors over 18 years of age. If Health Physics determines that exposure rates are low, the patient may have visitors under the age of 18. Patients are not allowed to hold infants or children under the age of two. Visitors must follow the exposure time schedule below.

C. Nurses must follow the exposure time schedule below. In most cases the exposure levels will be so low that unlimited patient care is allowed. Nurses known to be pregnant should not work with these patients.

D. Since sealed sources are used in this therapy, there is no contamination problem. It is possible, however, for an I-125 "seed" to be dislodged from the implant site and end up outside of the patient. Bed linens and dressings when changed should be monitored for loose "seeds". If a "seed" is found, use tweezers or tongs to pick it up and place in the lead container provided. Do not use your fingers. Urology patients may pass I-125 "seeds" in their urine. Notify the Radiation Oncology physician if any seeds are passed in the urine. They can be flushed if passed. If an I-125 "seed" is found, use tweezers or tongs to pick up the "seed" and place in the container provided.

E. If a seed is found, notify the UCDHS Health Physics Office at 916-734-3355, pager ________________, and Radiation Oncology Dosimetry Office 916-734-5825.

F. In the event of patient death, the physician and the UCDHS Health Physics Office should be notified (see Form 19 in chart).

VISITORS AND STAFF
MUST FOLLOW "MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE DAILY EXPOSURE TIMES"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure Rate (mR/hr) (time @ 1 meter from patient)</th>
<th>Daily Nursing Times (time at bedside)</th>
<th>Daily Visitation Times (time at 2 meters)</th>
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When there is more than one therapy patient in a room, the indicated times include the exposure from the other patient(s).