

RPC WEBPAGE NEWSLETTER

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The Radiological Physics Center (RPC) is about to enter its 35th year of support to NCI -funded clinical trials. As part of its operation, the RPC conducts on -site dosimetry review visits to institut ions participating in cooperative clinical trials. The RPC currently monitors 1308 institutions in North America and a few international sites. To date, 1422 visits have been made to 681 institutions. These visits include assessment of dosimetry data for p hoton and electron beams, external beam treatment planning systems, brachytherapy sources and planning systems and quality assurance procedures. When

There are two general observations that we would like the medical physics community to be aware of when performing their QA activities. The first is that even though the state in which you practice is not an agreement state and there do not exist any regulations governing accelerators, comprehensive QA -40 are still necessary. This not only ensures patient safety, but also will help protect you in the case of any legal action against you or your institution. In addition, QA tests performed but not recorded are considered to have not been performed at all. It's simple to generate some standard forms that can be completed as the QA tests are performed.

The second observation, is that even though the tests are performed correctly and in a timely manner, if these results are not compared to the current clinical values and the difference determined, then the QA

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dosimetry data disagreed with the values in clinical use. Quality assurance tests are unexciting and are nobody's favorite thing to do, but they are absolutely necessary.

If you have any questions regardite QA procedures, specific QA tests or items the RPC reviews when <http://rpc.mdanderson.org>) or call us at (713) 745 -8989.

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