



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

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## Medical Licensees Using High Dose Rate Afterloaders

Dear Radiation Safety Officers:

Within the past couple months there were two medical events regarding the use of transfer guide tubes (catheters) in tandems during patient treatment, the second of which was in Ohio. Both of the cases involved exposures to unintended areas during patient treatment while using a catheter in a tandem.

For the case in Ohio, the device vendor had discontinued an older catheter product line and provided an equivalent catheter. The new catheter in some tandems will catch on the inside of the tandem neck and not be fully inserted as intended. Since the catheter was not fully inserted, the treatment began from a point other than the intended starting location.

The Department is advising licensees using HDR afterloaders to review their procedures in order to provide an indication that the catheters are fully inserted as intended.

The Department expects that licensees will review the above information for applicability to their facility and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar issues. No specific action or written response is required.

Please address any questions regarding this notice to Karl Von Ahn at [karl.vonahn@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:karl.vonahn@odh.ohio.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael J Snee, Chief  
Bureau of Radiation Protection