

EJMOOR NOKTA**DOE/PHRI Special Medical Care Program in the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

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Dr. Harry J. Pettengill
Office Director
EH-51/270 Corporate Center
US Department of Energy
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20875

Dear Dr. Pettengill:

Thank you very much for the teleconference meeting. We found it very useful as it helped orient us to the evolving strategies and directions in the program. This letter is written in response to your request to pilot test referral care to facilities and physicians closer to the patients geographic home.

We have discussed this situation extensively. We were able to get the following information regarding possible specialist care in Utah for the case we reviewed at the meeting. We have outlined the following points regarding the case and have shared this information with Bill Jackson and Bechtel.

- 1) If the patient is to be seen in Utah, we will need a urologist there who is willing to see the patient within the DOE program parameters.
- 2) The Urologist will probably require a Primary Care Physician (Family Practice or Internal Medicine) to coordinate care.

- 3) We will need to identify a medical facility willing to participate with the program at which the Urologist has medical privileges
- 4) A request for the urologist's charges will need to be made.
- 5) A request for the medical facility fee will need to be made.
- 6) If the patient has prostate cancer, the patient will need assistance in understanding the options for appropriate treatment (radical prostatectomy, radiation, chemo)
- 7) The patient will need a comprehensive evaluation for these and likely an oncologist at this time.
- 8) If the patient is found to have additional life threatening conditions, or medical conditions that are not radiation related while under PHRI/DOE care, is the physician authorized to proceed with urgent or emergent medical treatment? Who will be billed for this?
- 9) Will the physician be willing to assist the patient in obtaining financial assistance (Medicaid, etc.) if they need additional care not covered by DOE?

We were able to identify Urology faculty members at the University of Utah, Health Sciences Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. We placed a call to the Center and located one urologist who is also an oncologist. Contact information has been forwarded to Bechtel.

Regarding costs, we obtained the following from Utah:

Consultant fee runs between \$80-250.

PSA test is \$50.

Trus/biopsy physician fee is \$475.

If a radical prostatectomy is required, physician only fee for surgery is \$4,400.

This does not include the facility fee, anesthesia, etc.

Bechtel has the subcontract with Straub for referrals and can obtain the comparable costs for Straub to complete these procedures.

We hope this information is helpful. There are still several issues regarding contracts and liability that will need to be addressed if the decision is to move forward with providing referral care in Utah.

Please let us know how you wish to proceed on the current case. We are happy to see where and how we can best cooperate for the benefit of the patient and the program.

Sincerely,

Neal A. Palafox MD, MPH

Neal A. Palafox, MD, MPH
Principal Investigator

cc: Gerald Petersen, DOE
Bill Jackson, DOE
Lance Yamaguchi, Bechtel

Enclosure