Urgent Field Safety Notice

February 24, 2014

To: Managers of Nuclear Medicine
    Hospital Administrators - Risk Managers
    Managers of Radiology - Cardiology

RE: Unintended detector motion on Infinia and Infinia Hawkeye Nuclear Medicine systems, Millennium VG, VG Hawkeye and VariCam Nuclear Medicine systems.

GE Healthcare has recently become aware of a potential safety issue related to unintended radial detector motion, which may occur during patient setup or at the end of a patient scan. Please ensure that all potential users and service personnel in your facility are made aware of this safety notification and the recommended actions.

Safety Issue

A potential life-threatening hazardous situation may occur if there is unintended radial detector motion leading to patient contact. This failure mode has been observed on a single system for a Whole Body scan, in which the detector moved to the home position and then slowly started drifting inward toward the patient. This generated both a visual and audio alert condition on both the console and the gantry. No injuries have been reported to date.

This potential detector slippage is due to a combination of gear box self-lock failure due to wear and a malfunction in the brake electrical command circuit.

Safety Instructions

Monitor the patient and the system during the entire scan procedure to ensure that there is enough clearance between the patient and the detectors. In the case that the detector comes into contact with the patient, press the Detector Out button on the Remote Control Unit to reverse the motion of the detector. In the case that any unintended motion of the detector is identified, press the Emergency Off button either at the console or on the gantry (shown below) to halt this motion and pull the Patient Release Handle to extract the patient as directed in the user manual. Using the Pressure Sensitive Devices at the gantry may not stop the detector unintended motion. If you see error # 147 in axis 1 please follow the user manual instructions and contact GE Service.
Affected Product Details
GE Healthcare Infinia and Infinia Hawkeye Nuclear Medicine systems, Millennium VG, VG Hawkeye and VariCam Nuclear Medicine systems, all configurations.

Product Correction
A GE Healthcare Service representative will perform a software upgrade on each affected system. This activity will be performed at no cost to you.

Contact Information
If you have any questions regarding this Field Safety Notice or the identification of affected items please contact your local Sales/Service representative.

You can also contact:

Phil Walker  
Regional Support Engineer - NM  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7771 767106.  
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GE Healthcare confirms that this notice has been notified to the appropriate Regulatory Agency.

Please be assured that maintaining a high level of safety and quality is our highest priority. If you have any questions, please contact us immediately.

Sincerely,

James Dennison  
Vice President QARA  
GE Healthcare Systems

Douglas M. Hansell, M.D., MPH  
Chief Medical Officer  
GE Healthcare