

The process of performing routine prostate implants requires careful management of physics and patient information, particularly when the lead time for receiving sources can be quite lengthy. At the University of Wisconsin, we have developed a networked database management system for prostate implants and isotope inventory that provides consistent and easy access for all staff involved, including physicists, physicians, nursing, and purchasing. This system has combined numerous spreadsheets, checklists, logbooks, and handwritten documents into an easy to use and centralized database. We are using the physics utilities of this system to order sources almost a year in advance, and the physicians and nurses update their patient information as it becomes available. Patient specific treatment checklists are automatically generated, and followup information is easily analyzed. The isotope inventory maintains a current log of all radioactive sources in our department, including decay corrected activities. As sources are received, the database records assay information and compares calculated activities to the manufacturer's stated activity. This system has greatly simplified our prostate implant system, and has allowed changes to be easily implemented.