



January 28, 2010

To the Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center Community,

You may have seen one of the recent articles published by the New York Times focusing on rare events in radiation therapy that have resulted in tragic consequences for patients. As an organization that is committed to saving lives, we are deeply saddened by these terrible accidents. We want you to know that the events described in these articles have not occurred at Trinitas and reassure you that radiation therapy remains one of the most effective and safest ways to treat cancer.

At Trinitas, we are committed to keeping our patients safe, which is why our radiation therapy team includes board certified radiation oncology physicians, full-time board certified medical physicists, certified dosimetry staff, licensed radiation therapists, and specially trained oncology nurses. Our team of dedicated professionals work together to optimize patient treatments and promote patient safety through a robust quality assurance program that utilizes some of the most advanced technology available.

Our linear accelerators are made by Varian Medical Systems, which is the leading manufacturer of radiation therapy equipment in the world. Varian has added protective features to their equipment that are designed to prevent the types of tragic errors described in the New York Times article.

Radiation therapy is vital in providing safe and effective treatment of cancer and other diseases for hundreds of thousands of people each year. Very rare accidents such as the ones described in the New York Times serve as an important reminder that treatment is not without risk. Patient safety continues to be our primary concern as we dedicate ourselves to helping our patients live longer and better lives in the fight against cancer.

Sincerely,

*Clarissa Henson*  
Clarissa Febles Henson, MD  
Chair of Radiation Oncology

*Barry Levinson*  
Barry S. Levinson, MD  
Medical Director