March 22, 1978

To: J. F. Scott, Administration Building

From: W. E. Neeld, Jr., M.D., Medical Division

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CENTRAL MEDICAL CONCERNING THE READING OF X-RAYS BY SITE PHYSICIANS

On receiving the appended informational bulletin from Central Medical, March 1, 1978, I brought to your attention that it was not practical to follow their recommendations concerning their recommendation of reading of x-rays. You suggested I pursue this concept with an outside radiological group to see what the cost factor might be.

The problem was presented to the radiologists, Pashuck and Owen, at Salem Hospital. An estimated caseload of 15,000 x-rays per year was given. This would include annual examinations, pre-employment examinations, and x-rays necessitated from visits to our Dispensary. Chambers Works would have to arrange to have the developed films transported to Salem Hospital for the reading and then returned on a daily basis. There would be required a waiting period by Chambers Works from the time the x-rays were read at Salem Hospital until they were dictated and the results returned for placement in the patient-employee's medical jacket.

Drs. Pashuck and Owen told me the following: First, they would need to have such a situation clarified by the College of Radiology. Under the conditions I outlined, they felt there might be an unethical element. Their reasons were it is just not the reading of the film but they would have no control over the quality of the films or the calibration of the x-ray equipment. They would need to periodically inspect our facilities to insure that our handling of x-ray matters meet the high standards as set by the College of Radiology. Assuming an x-ray caseload of 15,000 readings per year, they would need to hirer another full time radiologist to be placed either at Salem Hospital or sent to our facility. They would require the services of an additional clerical person to handle the dictation, etc. Their suggested fee for service requirement would range somewhere between $100,000 to $150,000 each year. Lastly, they weren't too keen on accepting such an idea either.

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