

Joyce Penney

From: Louise Jones
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2007 9:22 AM
To: Joyce Penney
Subject: FW: Database Follow-up

Lets put Robert on our list to call fro today as well to follow-up on this note..

-----Original Message-----

From: Louise Jones
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2007 7:45 PM
To: 'Robert Thompson'
Subject: RE: Database Follow-up

Robert,

I will give you a call on this to follow-up on this issue.

Do you have any sense when your data base will be completed.. On Thursday, you had indicated that you thought that this would happen in the next 10 days..

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Thompson [mailto:RThompson@gov.nl.ca]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2007 4:34 PM
To: Louise Jones
Subject: Database Follow-up

Louise:

There is one issue on which I would like to follow-up after last week's activities.

The variances in the data reported to the public last week have placed the focus on database management skills within the Eastern Health group which was tracking the data from the outset. Without questioning anyone's commitment to patient care, there was inadequate record-keeping on this project which resulted in variances.

The NLCHI project for the most part is about rebuilding a picture of what happened. A retrospective picture. If the whole story was in the past, then the NLCHI process would be enough.

However, now that some new cases are being retested and some people are being contacted for the first time, events are happening again on which good quality data needs to be collected. Therefore, if the same record-keeping approach is being used (and I am not sure if it is), it may contain the same problems as the first time around. For example, I understand that Heather's spreadsheet, when it was periodically updated, was overwritten each time, with the result that no copy of the spreadsheet as it existed previously was still available. Another example is the absence of a linkage between the spreadsheet data and the provincial mortality database to ensure that up-to-date mortality information was included.

As I am not sure what improvements have been made to the data collection approach I cannot make specific recommendations. However, given that new, real-time events and data collection are

occurring again, I recommend that someone with data management and research skills (other than NLCHI) be added to the team to ensure the completeness, consistency and reliability of the new data.

Robert

Robert Thompson
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues) and Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events Executive
Council Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709-729-3125