

**Alteen, Larry**

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**From:** Alteen, Larry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2005 10:27 AM  
**To:** 'Heather Predham'  
**Subject:** RE: ER/PR

Thanks Heather,

I do appreciate the seriousness of this issue and I don't think I was offended as much as frustrated after reviewing the charts of the 80+ cases from the old Central West side of our region last night and then after that reading your email. Probably just the lateness of the day. As mentioned this is a significant issue for all of us and I want to avoid placing blame on people versus trying to sort this out for the benefit of our patients/communities. I appreciate your reply.

Larry

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

**From:** Heather Predham [mailto:Heather.Predham@hccsj.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2005 8:09 AM  
**To:** Alteen, Larry  
**Subject:** RE: ER/PR

Hi Dr. Alteen,

Please understand I did not intend my e-mail as anything but a "heads up". I was of the understanding (obviously incorrectly) that your area had not responded to Dr. Cook's request. When I was briefing our insurer, they asked if I would mention this to the risk managers in the two authorities (yours and another). As you can appreciate, this situation has immense potential from the insurer's point of view and they were concerned that any miscommunication could add to it.

This IS a trying time, with alot of people involved in coordinating activities and infomration and I obviously made a mistake.

My only intent was to be helpful and I apologize if you have taken any offence.

Heather

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

**From:** Alteen, Larry [mailto:LAlteen@cwhc.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2005 11:19 PM  
**To:** Heather Predham  
**Subject:** FW: ER/PR

Hi Heather,

I wanted to respond to your email to Judy regarding our response to Dr. Cook's request. For the record we have responded to his verbal request in June within two weeks and to the September 6th written request within three weeks. This I feel is a quite appropriate turnaround time particularly in view of the fact that it will take months for these specimens to be processed in Mt. Sinai and a report available to us. I feel that the last sentence in your email is not helpful to any of us in this trying time. I have had extensive discussions with Dr. Williams recently regarding this and one of our pathologists, Dr. Maurice Dalton has been communicating with Dr. Cook personally, and as mentioned we always try to comply with the requests from your facility in a timely manner.

Thanks for listening.

Larry Alteen

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

From: Budgell, Judy  
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 1:40 PM  
To: Alteen, Larry  
Cc: Hornell, Jim  
Subject: FW: ER/PR

Judy

Judy Budgell  
Regional Utilization / Risk Manager  
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre Site  
Central Regional Integrated Health Authority  
50 Union Street Grand Falls Windsor A2A 2E2

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

From: Heather Predham [mailto:Heather.Predham@hccsj.nl.ca]  
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 7:04 AM  
To: Budgell, Judy; Susan Sullivan  
Subject: RE: ER/PR

Hi,

The Independent ran a story on Sunday....NTV are doing a story tonight...I have to get in contact with all of you about communicating with the surgoens....later today or tomorrow I'll send you something on what we are doing in case you want to do something similar

Heather

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

From: Budgell, Judy [mailto:JBudgell@cwhc.nl.ca]  
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 9:46 AM  
To: Heather Predham; Susan Sullivan; Budgell, Judy  
Subject: RE: ER/PR

Hi Heather,

I have spoken to our VP Medical and he is aware of the issue and has been in a conversation with Bob Williams as of this weekend. It will be discussed today. Thanks for the information.

Judy

Judy Budgell  
Regional Utilization / Risk Manager  
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre Site  
Central Regional Integrated Health Authority  
50 Union Street Grand Falls Windsor A2A 2E2

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

From: Heather Predham [mailto:Heather.Predham@hccsj.nl.ca]  
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 10:43 AM  
To: Susan Sullivan; jbudgell@cwhc.nl.ca  
Subject: ER/PR

HI guys,

We have had an issue with our ER/PR testing....this has been the issue that we have been dealing with all summer. ER/PR is estrogen and

progesterone receptors and if a person has breast cancer and is positive for these receptors, she gets tamoxifen as a treatment instead of Chemotherapy. She may end up on chemotherapy anyway, but it is felt that Tamoxifen may decrease the metastatic aspects of the breast cancer and has less awful side effects. (I say she but some of our affected patients are hes)

In 1997, a Dako semi-automated/manual system was installed for the Immunohistochemistry Service and replaced the bioassay method of testing for ER/PR receptors. This Dako system was replaced in 2004 by an automated Ventana system. In 2005, a patient, initially tested in 2002 with the Dako system and reported as ER/PR negative, was retested with the Ventana system and now indicated a strong positivity for estrogen and progesterone receptors. Four other patients initially tested as negative in 2002 were also retested, and all tested positive with the Ventana system.

We expanded our retesting to include all samples initially tested as negative in 2002 on the Dako system. Of the 57 retested on the Ventana system, 38 now showed positive results. This high conversion rate was unexpected and then placed the sensitivity of the Ventana System in question.

We have had external reviews done on our Ventana machine, on the pathology side of the service and the technical side. All those reports are pending, but we do have some recommendations that we can implement right now. Also we have stopped all testing and all requests for testing are being sent to Mt. Sinai. Mt. Sinai are also retesting all the blocks for these years. Results are starting to come in and it looks like we will have to contact up to 200 people to tell them that they were initially tested as negative, but were in fact positive.

Why am I telling you two all this? Well, since June, Dr. Cook our chief of pathology has requested that your two boards send in your blocks to be retested in Mt. Sinai, to no avail. I wanted to give you a heads up as we have to begin to inform people individually about this issue, but the Department of Health wants us to make a public statement. Since your labs have not responded yet to our request, you may be asked about the reasons why.....

What do you think?

Heather

*File ER/PR  
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**Alteen, Larry**

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**From:** Budgell, Judy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2005 3:02 PM  
**To:** Alteen, Larry; 'Hornell, Jim'; eforward@cehcib.nf.ca; Sherry Freake (sfreake@cehcib.nf.ca)  
**Subject:** FW: ER/PR

Hi there,  
This is a follow-up to the other email that was forwarded by HCCSJ Risk Manager re the above issue. Should we have some discussion re- data base ect. as well?

Judy

Judy Budgell  
Regional Utilization / Risk Manager  
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre Site Central Regional Integrated Health Authority 50 Union Street Grand Falls Windsor A2A 2E2

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

From: Heather Predham [mailto:Heather.Predham@hccsj.nl.ca]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2005 4:15 AM  
To: Budgell, Judy  
Subject: RE: ER/PR

HI,

Over the summer I created a database of all the patient's, names address specimen number original ER/PR results etc. What myself and Chris Power at the Cancer Clinic are doing now is trying to identify who the physician will be. We using this as a registry to track who has been told what by whom....

Where they haven't been seen by the Cancer Clinic we need to identify the surgeon. A couple of surgeon's we use in cosultation throughout this asked that they have a list of their potentially affected patients because they are afraid that they might miss the report and not realize what it is when they sre going through a bunch of reports.

We also have infomration posted on the website and physicians etc are able to refer patients to the patient complaint line.

CMPA and Peter browne have been fussing and he and dan are meeting with dr. Williams this pm about that.

I think that's about it...you can call me if you want....

Heather

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

From: Budgell, Judy [mailto:JBudgell@cwhc.nl.ca]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2005 1:53 PM  
To: Heather Predham  
Subject: RE: ER/PR

Hi Heather,  
Have you any information available as it pertains to your email below?

Judy

Judy Budgell  
Regional Utilization / Risk Manager  
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre Site Central Regional Integrated Health Authority 50 Union Street Grand Falls Windsor A2A 2E2

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