

Site Chiefs Meeting
Division of Anatomic Pathology
Lab Conference Room – St. Clare's
November 6, 2006
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Present: Drs. Morris-Larkin, Denic, Cook,
Mr. Barry Dyer

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Pathologists Assistants:

- Dr. Morris-Larkin circulated drafts on Pathologist Assistant (P.A.) training and the role of pathologists as mentors and supervisors to the P.A.'s. This is to be reviewed by the Site Chiefs who will provide comments and feedback on this document.

Formal P.A. teaching sessions have been set up by Drs. Wadden and Morris-Larkin. Dr. Morris-Larkin will work on developing an evaluation process for P.A.'s. Once P.A. training is complete, a log will be signed by the various site group pathologists, this is currently under development. An ITER type process will have to be developed to monitor their training development. The goal is to eventually formulate a gross manual for P.A.'s based on evidence based literature.

(b) Turnaround Times:

- Average turnaround times for the General Site is 11 days. Average Dynacare turnaround times for the General Cases is 21 days. Only 12% of cases are signed out within 96 hours. The delays appear to be coming from the technical levels and from pathology shortages. There was discussion regarding a formal process where outstanding reports are generated and submitted to the pathologists. Currently, this is being done on a monthly basis. Mr. Dyer will provide documentation that these reports are generated. Turnaround times will be monitored over the next few months. It is noted that the urgent cases are signed out within 24 – 48 hours.

(c) Prostate Biopsies:

- There was concern from urologists that the reporting of prostate biopsies by pathologists is not up to standard and perceived as being sometimes erroneous and often inadequate. Dr. Denic will look into a number of cases that are at issue. Dr. Denic will inform the urologists about the formation of subspecialty groups and standardized reporting. Dr. Denic will address this with the urologists and will obtain information on the percentages of different diagnostic categories in prostatic biopsies.

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- (d) **Perinatal Pathology:**
 - Dr. Denic received a letter from Dr. Pushpanathan stating that if she does not get extra resources or compensation to do perinatal work by December 1, 2006, she will make this the responsibility of the Laboratory Medicine Program. Dr. Denic will discuss this with Dr. Howell, Vice President of Medical Services.
- (e) **Transcription Services:**
 - Mr. Dyer will be asked to submit a tender for transcription services regarding hands-free dictation for grossing and microscopic description within the next few days. It is hoped that they will be an awarding of the contract early next year.
- (f) **Numbering System for Pathology:**
 - Mr. Dyer wants to go to a single numbering system for the Division of Anatomical Pathology. This met with approval from the Site Chief.
- (g) **LEAN System:**
 - These principles are being implemented at the technical level in the Division of Anatomical Pathology by Mr. Dyer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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St. Clare's Mercy Hospital
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