

Sparkes, Hellen

From: Gillam, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 12:10 PM
To: Hoddinott, Lisa; Jenkins, Ken
Subject: Fw: New Press Release - Revisions Included

ER/PR

CC: Eaton

Fyi
Susan

COPY

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

From: Thompson, Robert <rthompson@gov.nl.ca>
To: Gillam, Susan; Oscar Howell <OSCAR.HOWELL@easternhealth.ca>; McGrath, Karen <Karen.McGrath@centralhealth.nl.ca>; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca <boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca>; Brewer, Donna <dbrewer@gov.nl.ca>; Louise Jones (E-mail) <louise.jones@easternhealth.ca>
Cc: Furlong, Tara <tarafurlong@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tue Aug 19 11:56:37 2008
Subject: RE: New Press Release - Revisions Included

Here is a new text. The only revision of substance is the para after the bullets, which places the technical vs clinical issue in context. I am also waiting on the final two results from Western so we can round out the data.

We have not yet heard from Central or Eastern on this plan. Please advise as the timeline is short.

Thanks

Robert

Update on ER/PR Database

The four Regional Health Authorities of Newfoundland and Labrador have provided information to the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI) to update the ER/PR Database. Eleven new patients have been identified since the last public update in April 2008.

The ER/PR Database was constructed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI) on the request of the provincial government. The purpose of the database was to provide a clear and consistent presentation of existing data on people who met the criteria for retesting. The core criteria were that the original ER/PR test occurred between 1997 and 2005 and the original ER test result was negative.

Key characteristics of the 11 new patients are:

* 4 patients are from Eastern; 4 from Central; 2 from Western and 1 from Labrador-

Grenfell.;

- * 3 patients self-identified; 5 were identified by relatives; and 3 were found in further record searches;
- * 4 are living and 7 are deceased;
- * all 4 living have been retested; 5 of the deceased have been retested and 2 are currently being retested;
- * none of the living patients required a treatment change as a result of the retesting process;
- * of the 9 test results known, 7 were confirmations of the original results and 2 were changed results; and
- * the new total number of retested patients is 1024, with [xxx] having confirmed results and [xxx] having changed results.

The above data are based on technical definitions related to ER test results only. Depending on the characteristics of the case, a person who was a technical negative may have been treated as a clinical positive. As stated in the press release of the Department of Health and Community Services on March 18, 2008, "...a changed ER/PR test result does not necessarily mean that appropriate cancer treatment was delayed, as physicians tell us that this test is one factor among many that help determine course of treatment."

In the last database update on April 14, 2008, the existence of one self-identified patient was noted. Eastern Health publicized a toll-free telephone number for people to call if they had any uncertainties about their testing status. This publicity, along with the publicity associated with the hearings of the Commission of Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing, is likely responsible for the newly discovered patients.

Eastern Health's toll-free number (1-866-445-4548) is still available for any person who may wish to talk to a Patient Relations Officer about retesting.

NLCHI advises that the ER/PR database has been updated and provided to the Commission of Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing."

Robert Thompson

Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),

Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events

709.729.4092 (p)

709.682.8946 (c)

From: Gillam, Susan [mailto:susangillam@westernhealth.nl.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 9:20 AM

To: Thompson, Robert; Oscar Howell; McGrath, Karen; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca; Brewer, Donna; Louise Jones (E-mail)

Cc: Furlong, Tara
Subject: RE: New Press Release - Revisions Included
Importance: High

Hi Everyone

I just spoke with Robert regarding the press release. I am emailing regarding coordination of the release. Will one press release be sent on behalf of the four health authorities as opposed to four separate releases? I understand there may be changes to the release so we will need to wait final confirmation from Robert. Thanks Susan

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

From: Thompson, Robert [mailto:rthompson@gov.nl.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 9:00 AM
To: Thompson, Robert; Oscar Howell; Gillam, Susan; McGrath, Karen;
boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca; Brewer, Donna
Cc: Furlong, Tara
Subject: New Press Release - Revisions Included

Please see text with data included, as noted yesterday.

"Update on ER/PR Database

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Robert Thompson

Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),

Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events

709.729.4092 (p)

709.682.8946 (c)

From: Thompson, Robert
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 5:18 PM
To: 'Oscar Howell'; 'Gillam, Susan'; 'McGrath, Karen'; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca;
Brewer, Donna
Cc: Furlong, Tara
Subject: New Press Release Approach

As you may know, we have been developing material for a possible release/update tomorrow. Our core point is that given the increase by 11, it is necessary to update the public.

We think a factual release focused on the numbers should come from the four RHAs collectively. A suggested text is below. I have talked to Oscar Howell after your meeting had broken up, and I would ask you to discuss this and let me know if there are any problems or concerns.

The timing is issue is important. The release should happen tomorrow, Tuesday.

The suggested text is as follows (with 2 pieces of data to be filled in tomorrow morning):

"Update on ER/PR Database

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