

From: [Heather Predham](#)
To: ["klaing@nctrf.nf.ca"](mailto:klaing@nctrf.nf.ca); [Patricia Pilgrim](#); [Dr. Robert Williams](#);
[Susan Bonnell](#);
Subject: Patient Letter
Date: October-18-05 1:12:18 PM
Attachments: [Patient Letter.doc](#)

Hi,

I've attached the draft letter with the suggested changes.

Before we send it out we will need to consider the following:

- patients from St. Pierre: is there a central medical contact we can discuss this issue with? Also, we need to get the letter translated.
- patients in nursing homes and personal care homes. Can we send the letters to the medical director of the nursing home board and the owner/operator of a personal care home for appropriate distribution (ie: next of kin?)
- Will we send this letter out via registered mail through one central area, such as QSI? We can then monitor the undeliverable mail.

I guess we also have to remember that we will get a negative reaction from the letters, everything from timing, upsetting people with no information and of course we will send some unintentionally to people who have died. I guess we should compare the mailing list to the obituaries to ensure we don't send letters to the recently deceased.

Finally, I think we should be aware that we will not be able to notify everyone.... several on the list have moved and we have no other contact information.

I'm going to send this on to Dan Boone as well.....I'm not sure how HIROC will feel about notifying people at this point in time and whether the media attention will make any difference.

let me know what changes you want made.....

Heather

October 17, 2005

DRAFT

Dear Patient:

We are contacting patients that have been diagnosed with breast cancer between 1997 and 2004. Our records show that the initial pathology results from your breast cancer indicated that your tumour was negative for estrogen receptors. As part of a review of the laboratory at Eastern Health, your previously tested tissue sample will be retested at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. You are not required to have any additional testing and are not required to come to the hospital.

The estrogen receptor, or ER/PR, results are used by your doctor to determine the appropriate therapy for your breast cancer. Once the results of this re-testing are known, your Surgeon or Oncologist will contact you to review your results. Any impact that this may have had on your past or present care will be discussed with you by your doctor at that time.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may call our Patient Relations Officer at 777-6500.

Dr. R.J. Williams, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice-President – Quality, Diagnostic and Medical Services
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