

Gregory, Deborah

From: Tracy Chislett [tracy.chislett@nlchi.nl.ca]
Sent: August 18, 2008 4:03 PM
To: Gregory, Deborah
Subject: FW: Pls review

Hi Debbie,
Below is the only suggestion we had. Thought I would send it along for you as well.

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

From: Don MacDonald
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 4:00 PM
To: Reza Alaghehbandan; 'RThompson@gov.nl.ca'
Cc: Tracy Chislett; Lucy McDonald; Kayla Collins
Subject: Re: Pls review

Robert

I have had a conversation with the individuals copied on this email concerning the news release. Reza's suggestion (below) is the only edit we ask you to consider.

Don MacDonald

Sent from BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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

From: Reza Alaghehbandan <reza.alaghehbandan@nlchi.nl.ca>
To: Don MacDonald <don.macdonald@nlchi.nl.ca>
CC: Tracy Chislett <tracy.chislett@nlchi.nl.ca>; Lucy McDonald <lucy.mcdonald@nlchi.nl.ca>; Kayla Collins <kayla.collins@nlchi.nl.ca>
Sent: Mon Aug 18 15:46:45 2008
Subject: RE: Pls review

Hi Don,

As per our conversation, please see below Tracy and my comment:

Therefore, NLCHI will review the methods used and work with the RHAs to identify the most reasonable option for further searches.

Reza

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

From: Thompson, Robert [mailto:rthompson@gov.nl.ca]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 3:10 PM
To: Gregory, Deborah; Tracy Chislett; Reza Alaghehbandan; Don MacDonald
Subject: Pls review

This may go out tomorrow. Please provide your feedback. I would like Don to review as well; is he still on vacation. If so, please advise whether we can get his feedback or Mike B.

You will see that the full workplan is not described; just the first step.

Update on ER/PR Database

The Honourable Ross Wiseman said today that since the last update on the database in April 2008, eleven people have been added to the ER/PR Database, raising the total number of patients who met the criteria for retesting to 1024.

The ER/PR Database was constructed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information over the last year at the request of the Department of Health and Community Services [and the Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues)]. 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. The Minister first reported in February 2008 that the total count was 1013.

Key characteristics of the 11 new patients are:

- 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 11 have been retested;
- None of the living patients required a treatment change as a result of the retesting process;
- 4 patients are from Eastern; 4 from Central; 2 from Western and 1 from Labrador-Grenfell.

In the last database update on April 14, 2008, the existence of one self-identified patient was noted. This person is included in the 11 patients above. The possibility was also noted that the original search process by regional health authorities may have gaps and it was not 100% certain that all people had been identified. 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 Commission hearings, is likely responsible for the newly discovered patients.

While it was not part of NLCHI's plans or intention to duplicate the original searches for patients by regional health authorities, the identification of 11 new patients makes it necessary to evaluate the original search strategies. Therefore, NLCHI will review the methods used and provide feedback to the regional health authorities on reasonable options for further searches. Eastern Health's toll-free number is still available for any person whomay wish to talk to a Patient Relations Officer about retesting.

The ER/PR database has been updated and provided to the Commission of Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing.

Robert Thompson
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