

Gregory, Deborah

From: Thompson, Robert
Sent: August 19, 2008 12:48 PM
To: 'Oscar Howell'; McGrath, Karen; 'Gillam, Susan'; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca; Furlong, Tara
Cc: Gregory, Deborah
Subject: Latest Draft

See text below. We just received the Western Results. Based on consult with Dr. Neil and NLCHI, we have removed one of the Western cases (the original score should have been classified as positive), so the total is down to ten. The release incorporates this result.

Oscar has offered Eastern as release coordinator. People should contact Debra Collins as appropriate.

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. Ten 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 10 new patients are:

- 4 patients are from Eastern; 4 from Central; 1 from Western and 1 from Labrador-Grenfell.;*
- 3 patients self-identified; 4 were identified by relatives; and 3 were found in further record searches;*
- 4 are living and 6 are deceased;*
- all have been retested;*
- none of the living patients required a treatment change as a result of the retesting process;*
- of the 10 test results, 7 were confirmations of the original results and 3 were changed results; and*
- the new total number of retested patients is 1023, with 698 having confirmed results and 325 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)

Gregory, Deborah

From: Thompson, Robert
Sent: August 19, 2008 1:19 PM
To: 'OSCAR.HOWELL@easternhealth.ca'; 'karen.mcgrath@centralhealth.nl.ca';
'susangillam@westernhealth.nl.ca'; 'boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca'; Furlong, Tara;
'louise.jones@easternhealth.ca'
Cc: Gregory, Deborah; 'Deborah.Collins@easternhealth.ca'; 'cdornan@bristolgroup.ca';
'Beverley.Clarke@easternhealth.ca'; 'Pam.Elliott@easternhealth.ca';
'Heather.Predham@easternhealth.ca'
Subject: Re: Latest Draft

I understand your concern. That case is the only one that had an ambiguous ER. All others are straightforward. NLCHI have reviewed the data as well. Feel free to check because we do not want you to sign off on data you are unsure of. Heather P has been the main supplier of your data to Reza A at NLCHI.

RT

Sent Via BlackBerry

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

From: Oscar Howell <OSCAR.HOWELL@easternhealth.ca>
To: Thompson, Robert; McGrath, Karen <Karen.McGrath@centralhealth.nl.ca>; Gillam, Susan <susangillam@westernhealth.nl.ca>; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca <boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca>; Furlong, Tara; Louise Jones <Louise.Jones@easternhealth.ca>
Cc: Gregory, Deborah; Deborah Collins <Deborah.Collins@easternhealth.ca>; Cathy Dornan <cdornan@bristolgroup.ca>; Beverley Clarke <Beverley.Clarke@easternhealth.ca>; Pam Elliott <Pam.Elliott@easternhealth.ca>; Heather Predham <Heather.Predham@easternhealth.ca>
Sent: Tue Aug 19 13:05:33 2008
Subject: RE: Latest Draft

Robert,

We have not reviewed any of the numbers as put forward so I am unsure about the four from this region. I had assumed that this data was as solid as could be. Do I need to have our own team review considering the change from Western? Here we are at the 11th hour making a numbers change!

Oscar

Oscar Howell, B.Med.Sc., M.D., MSc(A) (OH) FCBOM

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From: Thompson, Robert [mailto:rthompson@gov.nl.ca]
 Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 12:48 PM
 To: Oscar Howell; McGrath, Karen; Gillam, Susan; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca; Furlong, Tara
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