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Subject: HUDSON REACTS TO EASTERN HEALTH APOLOGY

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Product Summary:

HUDSON REACTS TO EASTERN HEALTH APOLOGY: Jonathon spoke with Cancer Patient Juanita Hudson with the latest apology by Eastern Health and her experience with the hormone receptor tests.
Friday, May 18, 2007 06:23PM Item # 17
CBC - TV News

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JONATHAN CROWE: Today, Eastern Health apologized for not having disclosed the accurate number of incorrect hormone receptor tests to the general public. That's the test that determines the course of treatment for breast cancer patients. Now Juanita Hudson had her first test following surgery in 2002 and I spoke with Juanita Hudson earlier.

JUANITA HUDSON: And after the surgery, you go back to have your stitches out and your tubes out and all this stuff and at that point, you get your results. So I got my results and he told me that I was receptor negative, which is not the same thing, like I said earlier, it's not the same thing as being negative or positive for cancer, it doesn't mean that. It means the type of cancer you had, whether it was receptor positive or negative. And mine was negative. So with the negative tumors, you get the chemo, which is what I got, but then there is no more follow-up, there's no more treatment. There's follow-up but there's no treatment because there is no treatment that's any good for the negative tumors. So that was, that was devastating because the negative tumors are more dangerous. They're, well, as I said earlier, harder to treat because there is no treatment, follow-up after your chemo. And not only that, it's a higher occurrence rate, recurrence rate and so you're there saying I have the worst one of all, of the both, of the cancers. Then three years later, I read, I found out through the media, I saw a piece on TV and I saw a piece in the paper, an article in the paper and it said that all the negatives, they were... they were, mistakenly, some of them, and they're supposed to be positive

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or we think. And we're going to do some retesting and that the cancer clinic would be in contact with you. Finally, I think it was the end of February, '06, or the beginning of March, I'm not really sure of the date there, but anyway, I got a call from my oncologist here at the cancer clinic telling me that I was one of the ones that was wrongly diagnosed and that I need to come back home to get started on follow-up, well, hormone treatment it is. So I came home and I went on Tamoxifen which is the treatment for the positive tumors and I started on Tamoxifen in April of '06. So I was almost four years without the treatment. So you can imagine how devastated I felt and still am feeling. Because I... I'm really, really upset about this because I don't think the health department thought that this was serious enough but if your life is threatened, that's serious enough.

JONATHAN CROWE: So how long was it between the time of your first hormone redeptor test and the correct one?

JUANITA HUDSON: Well, I was, had my surgery in '02. So I don't know when they started doing the retesting and realized there was a mistake but I think it was in '05, in the summer of '05. And then that's when, I just told you, we waited and waited and waited and I heard nothing until the end of February or the first part of March. So this was, what, about nine months later? So on top of the three years that I already waited, so now I'm into almost four years with no treatment.

JONATHAN CROWE: You must wonder all the time what would have happened if you had had the correct treatment and been properly diagnosed initially. What goes through your mind?

JUANITA HUDSON: Well, first of all, when I heard it, when I didn't hear, I was, I was thinking the best, thinking that oh well I must be negative. And there is no other treatment for it anyway, I had the best treatment I could get that I felt at that time with the chemo and that was the only treatment that the negative tumors could get. Then I was thinking oh my godness, I'm gone three, four years, supposed to have a treatment that I didn't get, now when is my cancer coming back.

JONATHAN CROWE: What would you like to say to the people at Eastern Health?

JUANITA HUDSON: Well, I'd like to say to them, well, first of all let me say that my big reason for getting involved, and I only got involved yesterday after all this time I've been quiet about it, but now I feel that I need to support everyone that's trying to get something done here. And my comments to them would be, be upfront and honest with the people. I think we would accept that so much better. I'm really hurt because they didn't tell me, they didn't tell me they were retesting in the beginning. Then when they told me they were retesting, they didn't give me the true picture of how many were affected, like at that point they were telling me four, ten percent. Now I find out it's forty two percent with thirty six people who have died. So that's not good enough. I don't think it's good enough for those of us that are suffering through this. And anyone that's suffering through cancer or going through cancer knows that this is not good enough.

JONATHAN CROWE: Miss Hudson, thank you very much.

JUANITA HUDSON: You're welcome.

JONATHAN CROWE: Now, Juanita Hudson has been in remission for the last, last little while. She says though that she is considering throwing her hat in the ring with the others who are taking legal action on this.

DEBBIE COOPER: Okay and of course, we will hear an awful lot more about that as it goes along.

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