

Faxed Apr 3, 2008 (4)



Western Health

COPY

APR - 4 2008

April 3, 2008

Mr. Robert Thompson
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Mr. Thompson:

In response to your correspondence of April 1, 2008, please know that, subsequent to your March 5, 2008, memo, and at our request, Eastern Health shared information from the Cancer Registry that helped us with our review of the status of the three patients. Western Health also reviewed our health records. With respect to each of the three patients, from the review we learned:

Western Health sent tissue samples, from a biopsy, for ER PR retesting at Mount Sinai. We did perform ER PR testing on this patient after her surgery but did not send this sample for retesting since it was highly positive, confirmed the information from the initial pathology testing and informed clinical treatment. In addition to surgery, this patient received Tamoxifen and follow up care at the Cancer Clinic. The results of retesting (the biopsy tissue sample) at Mount Sinai confirmed the highly positive ER PR.

Western Health sent tissue samples from a lumpectomy for ER PR retesting at Mount Sinai. Although the Cancer Registry notes a positive ER PR status (following subsequent biopsies and surgery), we were not able to find a record of this testing in our systems. We did not send an ER PR test for retesting. We did note, from our review of health records, that this patient also received Tamoxifen and follow up care at the Cancer Clinic.

Western Health sent tissue samples, from a biopsy, for ER PR retesting at Mount Sinai. The reports in the health records indicate "not enough tissue for ER PR" testing following her subsequent surgery. Dr. Paul Neil reviewed the results of the Mount Sinai retesting with Dr. Cara Laing and will write to the attending surgeon recommending his meeting with the patient to discuss this result and advise follow up with the oncologist.

I apologize for any confusion from my initial responses. I am not sure if this information changes the decision not to include these patients in the database. Thank you for considering this response. Please contact me if you have questions.



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues)

COPY

APR - 1 2008

MEMORADNUM

TO: Susan Gillam – CEO - Western Regional Health Authority
Patricia Pilgrim – COO- Eastern Regional Health Authority

CC: Louise Jones - CEO- Eastern Regional Health Authority

FROM: Robert Thompson – Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues)

DATE: April 1, 2008

RE: CONTACT WITH RESULTS TO PATIENTS WITH NO ORIGINAL TEST CONDUCTED
IN THE PROVINCE AS RECORDED IN ER/PR DATABASE

On March 5, 2008 a memo was sent to your attention with an attached patient listing containing the names of three patients from the Western Regional Health Authority that did not have an original ER/PR test conducted in the province but had a test sent to Mount Sinai as part of the ER/PR recall and for which documentation of contact with results could not be confirmed. If no original ER/PR testing was done in the province then these patients would not meet the inclusion criteria for the retesting process (original test done in the province and retesting completed at Mount Sinai) and as such would not be included in the ER/PR database.

I indicated my belief that the responsible RHA should follow-up with the physicians and/or patients to confirm if the physician ordering the test and/or patient has been contacted regarding the results. I also indicated that NLCHI did not require documentation for each patient, but I did request a written response indicating what action, if any, would be taken on this issue. In response to my request it appears that conflicting views exist as to whether or not an original test was ever conducted on the three patients identified previously. Ms. Lisa Hoddinott from the Western Regional Health Authority has indicated that no original tests were conducted on the three patients. However, Ms. Heather Predham of the Eastern Regional Health Authority has provided information to the contrary. The NLCHI needs clarification on the status of the three patients. If the individuals had an original ER/PR test done then this would result in the patient's inclusion. Therefore, it is imperative that the issues surrounding these patients be resolved as quickly as possible.

I would be grateful if you could inform me of the final outcome of your deliberations by Thursday, April 3, 2008. This office will provide the updated information to NLCHI.

If you have any questions, please call me at 729-4092 or 682-8946 or Debbie Gregory at 729-6977.

dg

Attachment

Name	MCP	Region	Ori_ER	Ori_PR	MS_ER	MS_PR	Vital Status
		Western			100	100	Not deceased
		Western			95	70	Not deceased
		Western			0	40	Not deceased

COPY