

February 8, 2007

Dr. Bev Carter
Leader – Breast Pathology Sub-specialty Task Group
St. John's Hospitals, Eastern Health
c/o St. Clare's Site

Dear Dr. Carter:

RE: ER, PR and Her-2-neu Reporting

I want to inform you that after the period of 18 months during which the Immunohistochemical stains for ER, PR and Her2-Neu were stopped in our Lab, and after thorough review of our Immunohistochemistry service, we are re-instating Immunohistochemical testing for ER, PR, and Her2-Neu. I was given assurance by the Director of Immunohistochemistry Department, Dr. Ford Elms, that Immunohistochemistry service has met all the requirements to continue aforementioned tests. The reporting of ER, PR and Her2-Neu should come into effect immediately, according to the approved (standardized) protocols).

It is my expectation and the expectation of the Senior Management of Eastern Health that your group should take over the reporting of the status of breast receptors and Her2-Neu province-wide. Due to past problems in interpreting the stains, it is obvious that outside consultants in Pathology have limited expertise. Having said that, I will first offer our services to other departments and medical directors across the Province, and recommend them to have this service provided by your group. Since I have no authority over their decisions, in case they decide to retain interpretation of breast receptors in their centers, then in-service would have to be provided by your group. If they accept the offer, we will request that our tissue fixation and processing policies must be followed in order to increase the reproducibility of the results.

-2-

I also expect that your group should monitor and take an active role in QA of these tests with certain number of cases, as decided by this group, to be sent to an outside institution, such as Mt. Sinai, for validation. Log book and correlations should be kept, and readily available for review. You should give your feedback and maintain a good relationship with the Director of Immunohistochemistry Department.

Sincerely yours,



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