

Sparkes, Hellen

**From:** Gillam, Susan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008 12:22 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Ken; Hoddinott, Lisa  
**Subject:** Fw: New Press Release - Revisions Included

**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Fyi  
Susan

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

**From:** Thompson, Robert <rthompson@gov.nl.ca>  
**To:** Oscar Howell <OSCAR.HOWELL@easternhealth.ca>  
**Cc:** Gillam, Susan  
**Sent:** Tue Aug 19 12:17:02 2008  
**Subject:** RE: New Press Release - Revisions Included

No they have not been determined. I suggest that one RHA release it to all provincial media, but clearly indicating that it is on behalf of all RHAs, and providing the names of the 4 com directors to handle inquiries. The logistics are really up to you. I am pushing, however, to get it done today. We need to know if Eastern agrees with the approach.

Robert Thompson

Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),

Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events

709.729.4092 (p)

709.682.8946 (c)

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**From:** Oscar Howell [mailto:OSCAR.HOWELL@easternhealth.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008 12:00 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: New Press Release - Revisions Included

Robert,

Louise is on vacation so I have not discussed with her. I understand a single release as you outline below. Have the logistics of release and response been determined.

Oscar

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

Vice President

Medical Services and Diagnostics

Administration, General Hospital

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CC: Eaton

COPY

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image001.jpg (16 KB)

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From: Thompson, Robert [mailto:rthompson@gov.nl.ca]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 9:00 AM  
To: Thompson, Robert; Oscar Howell; Gillam, Susan; McGrath, Karen; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca; Brewer, Donna  
Cc: Furlong, Tara  
Subject: New Press Release - Revisions Included

Please see text with data included, as noted yesterday.

"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. Eleven new patients have been identified since the last public update in April 2008.

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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 11 new patients are:

- \* 4 patients are from Eastern; 4 from Central; 2 from Western and 1 from Labrador-Grenfell;
- \* 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 4 living have been retested; 5 of the deceased have been retested and 2 are currently being retested;
- \* none of the living patients required a treatment change as a result of the retesting process;

- \* of the 9 test results known, 7 were confirmations of the original results and 2 were changed results; and
- \* the new total number of retested patients is 1024..

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."

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Robert Thompson  
 Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),  
 Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events  
 709.729.4092 (p)  
 709.682.8946 (c)

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From: Thompson, Robert  
 Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 5:18 PM  
 To: 'Oscar Howell'; 'Gillam, Susan'; 'McGrath, Karen'; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca; Brewer, Donna  
 Cc: Furlong, Tara  
 Subject: New Press Release Approach

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As you may know, we have been developing material for a possible release/update tomorrow. Our core point is that given the increase by 11, it is necessary to update the public.

We think a factual release focused on the numbers should come from the four RHAs collectively. A suggested text is below. I have talked to Oscar Howell after your meeting had broken up, and I would ask you to discuss this and let me know if there are any problems or concerns.

The timing is issue is important. The release should happen tomorrow, Tuesday.

The suggested text is as follows (with 2 pieces of data to be filled in tomorrow morning):

"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. Eleven 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.

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- \* 4 are living and 7 are deceased;
- \* all 4 living have been retested; 5 of the deceased have been retested and 2 are currently being retested;
- \* none of the living patients required a treatment change as a result of the retesting process;
- \* of the 9 test results known, [x] were confirmations of the original results and [x] were changed results; and
- \* the new total number of retested patients is 1024..

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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

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