

**Thompson, Robert**

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**From:** Don MacDonald [don.macdonald@nlchi.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2008 3:57 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Robert; Gregory, Deborah  
**Cc:** reza.alaghehbandan@nlchi.nl.ca; tracyc@nlchi.nl.ca  
**Subject:** ER/PR Search Strategies (Interview Summary)

Robert/Debbie

At our meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we were ask to provide the Task Force a brief summary of the interviews carried out to identify search strategies used within each health authority, and provide comments on these strategies.

After completing interviews with the four health authorities it was evident that the authorities, in searching for breast cancer patients, employed two separate searches. This included the initial search carried out in 2005, and the 2007 search undertaken when the Centre became involved in developing the ER/PR Database. The main results of the interviews are as follows:

1. Carbonear completed a manual search
2. Clarenville completed an electronic search, with the caveat that some clinical data may have been lost
3. St. John's completed an electronic search by "ER/PR" using the order entry field
4. Central East completed an electronic search using many word searches (specific terms unknown), however one term searched was "breast"
5. Central West completed an electronic search for 2001-2005 using the word "breast"; for 1997-2000 a manual search was done.
6. Western completed an electronic search based on tumour markers which their Meditech system automatically assigns to ER/PR specimens
  - a. Also asked for NCTRF to send a list of patients from Western to help with the search and searched through requisition forms for specimens sent to St. John's for ER/PR
7. Labrador/Grenfell completed a manual search.
  - a. Asked St. John's to send a list of all breast specimens that went to St. John's for ER/PR testing.

It is our position that a consistent electronic search using the term "breast" is considered the more robust of search available. However, without more detailed information on how individual Meditech systems within each authority are designed, we cannot confirm that such a search would be beneficial. Of note, Eastern did not use the search term "breast" in identifying breast cancer patients having ER/PR tests.

However, during our interviews it was noted that it may be beneficial for St. John's to provide each health authority with a list of all their "out-of-town" specimens having ER/PR ordered. For example, such a list may help with Clarenville having missed cases due to some data being lost, however it needs to be recognized that such a list would still have the same limitations as the original search used by Eastern (i.e., "ER/PR" search in order entry field).

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