



July 29, 20005

Dr. Gershon Ejeckham
Chairperson
Surgical Pathology Review Committee
c/o Lab, HSC

Dear Dr. Ejeckham:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and Dr. Cook on July 15, 2004, to discuss the activities of the Surgical Pathology Review Committee.

We concur that as a Quality Assurance Committee there should be a linkage between the work of the Committee and the overall quality initiative efforts within this organization. By copy of this letter to Ms. Heather Predham, I will ask her to follow up with you on the matter to see what supports the Quality and Systems Improvement Department might give to your activities.

We had a chance to have a detailed discussion of the issue of having adequate medical information on surgical tissue specimens sent to Pathology for review. This was an issue that was raised by the Surgical Pathology Review Committee in September, 2003, as Dr. Cook was not available for the Clinical Chiefs' meeting of October, 2003, he addressed it as part of his report to the November meeting of Clinical Chiefs and this was then referred to the Medical Advisory Committee. After discussions in both these forms, it was decided that Clinical Chiefs would support the trust of your recommendation and try impress upon all staff in their programs the need to have adequate medical information transmitted with surgical specimens. I know, although there were some improvements in the quality of information received, especially from the area of Obstetrics and Gynecology, further discussion and follow up took place with the Co-Clinical Chief of the Perioperative Program, Dr. Alan Kwan. He subsequently addressed this in a memo to all surgeons within this organization in June, 2004.

After further medical leadership follow up, it was decided to modify the requisition form for surgical pathology specimens and outline in bold red letters that adequate medical information would need to be provided before the specimens were processed. I understand this new form has been prepared and gone forward to the Forms Committee

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for approval. The intent would be that once the form has been approved, it will be implemented and physicians advised that this policy will come into effect within a few months after implementation. It is our intention to fully implement this approach which we think will ensure that Pathologists have good relevant clinical information as they interpret the specimens. We will ask your Committee to monitor progress in this respect. It is my understanding that Dr. Cook consulted with all Pathologists during the development of this new form and the approach that is proposed is to improve clinical information.

In our meeting, Dr. Cook brought up the issue of tissue audit with respect to the Surgical Pathology Review Committee now taking on responsibility for reviewing tissue samples and the medical history to see if there are problems in terms of a valid reason for these procedures. We agree that you felt that this should be under the auspices of this organization's Quality Assurance Committee so that adequate resources can be available to get the information together for the Committee. I will ask Heather Predham to follow up with you on this matter to see if one of her staff members can be made available to assist in this worthwhile endeavour. This issue was captured within the initial Terms of Reference set up for the Surgical Pathology Review Committee in reference to the April 15, 2003, agenda.

I trust this is satisfactory and look forward to a great improvement in the quality of information that is received from physicians with surgical specimens and the ongoing review of tissue audits on surgical specimens.

Yours sincerely,



R.J. WILLIAMS, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice President, Quality, Diagnostic and
Medical Services

/dd

c Dr. Don Cook
Ms. Heather Predham



Division of Anatomical Pathology
Department of Laboratory Medicine

Request for Surgical Pathology Examination

NAME:

MCP#:

Site: ☐ General ☐ Janeway ☐ St. Clare's
☐ Bell Island ☐ L.A.M.C. ☐ Waterford

Date of Operation:

Clinical Diagnosis/History and Operative Findings:

(SPECIMEN WILL NOT BE PROCESSED/REPORTED WITHOUT CLINICAL DATA PROVIDED)

IN LED

Nature/Source of Specimen:

Surgeon's Name (Please Print)

Surgeon's Signature

FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY

Specimen No: S

DR. Williams,

PHOTO COPY OF THE FINAL
VERSION THAT BARRY SENT
TO FORMS COMMITTEE:
ATTENTION DORA COOPER.
SENT IN MAY.

HE HAS RE-SENT TODAY

Dora Cooper 115