

September 26, 2005

Dr. Robert Williams
Vice-President,
Quality, Diagnostic and Medical Services
Eastern Health
General Hospital Site
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 3V6

Dear Dr. Williams:

RE: ER and PR Review

Following the exit interviews of both the medical and technical consultants, one of the issues identified in immunohistochemical staining of estrogen and progesterone receptors concerns adequate fixation of the specimen. It appears in some cases that mastectomy specimens and other breast biopsies could very well be left lying overnight or over the weekend in the O.R. without adequate formalin fixation. I would strongly recommend that all mastectomies, needle localizations, and lumpectomies with axillary node dissection should be booked first thing in the morning in the O.R. from Monday to Friday. Ideally, these procedures should not be performed on Friday afternoons. Every effort should be made to ensure that these cases are forwarded to the lab a timely fashion.

I would appreciate it if this information could be forwarded to those individuals responsible for O.R. bookings.

Sincerely yours,

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St. John's Hospitals, Eastern Health
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*September 2005
Spoke to Study
Director Manager
regarding possibility
of scheduling breast
cases early in morning
- Study state, main issue
is sending no direction of
- follow up to my August memo*