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**To:** "Tansy Mundon" <TansyMundon@gov.nl.ca>  
**Date:** 23/05/2007 10:56:04 am  
**Subject:** ER-PR Advertisement

Hi Tansy,

Here's the advertisement. I'm in the process of determining the exact date this ran in the papers and will let you know shortly.

Thanks,

Jeanette

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# A MESSAGE TO BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

## Re-testing for estrogen and progesterone (ER and PR) Receptors

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

You may have heard in the media that Eastern Health is re-testing breast cancer tissue samples.

Recently the lab at the Health Sciences Centre discovered some inconsistent results in breast tumour samples.

To ensure that all patients have every treatment opportunity that may be available to them, Eastern Health has decided to re-test all the negative estrogen receptor results since 1997.

### WHAT ARE ER AND PR RECEPTORS?

All patients who have had breast cancer have been tested for the presence or absence of estrogen and progesterone receptors (ER and PR). The presence or absence of ER and PR helps determine the most appropriate treatment of breast cancer.

When you are ER and/ or PR positive, hormonal therapies such as Tamoxifen may be one treatment option open to you. ER and PR are just one of the many things oncologists look at to determine the type of cancer treatment a patient will receive.

**Only a small percentage of breast cancer patients may be affected by this re-testing as treatment for breast cancer is based on several factors, not just ER and PR.**

### WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

We are sending previously collected tissue samples to Mount Sinai Laboratory in Toronto to make sure patients are getting the appropriate treatments. Patients are not required to come to hospital or have any additional testing.

All patients who are being re-tested are being contacted.

Our first priority is to notify patients whose results have changed because of the re-testing. If there is a change to your result and your treatment is affected, you will be contacted directly by your oncologist or treating physician. You will also be notified if there is no change in your ER and PR status.

It is important to note that most patients will not experience a change in their earlier test results. About 75% of all breast cancer patients tested positive for ER and PR from 1997 to 2005. These patients are not impacted by this re-testing.

If you had breast cancer and are concerned about your previous test results and treatment, you may wish to contact your oncologist, surgeon or family doctor.

**You may also call the Patient Relations Officer at Eastern Health at 777-6500. She will attempt to answer your questions or link you with someone who can help.**

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