

DRAFT KEY MESSAGES

The Process:

Our first priority was and continues to be to our patients.

From the beginning, our reason for conducting this retrospective review was to ensure that patients had every treatment opportunity available to them.

We take these matters seriously and we understand that this may have been stressful period for some of our patients; for this we apologize.

We are committed to ensuring that we provide a quality service in our laboratory.

Eastern Health is committed to disclosure; this is a private matter between patient and care provider which we do not discuss publicly.

Eastern Health has acted through this process with the best intentions for our patients.

The Results:

In the vast majority of cases tested and treated between 1997 and 2005, the patient's treatment was confirmed appropriate.

117 patients have had recommended treatment changes. Some of the changes were related to ER/PR conversion while others were as a result of the Tumor Board reviewing charts.

Error is a matter for the legal system and our quality review processes to determine.

The Test:

Testing for ER/PR is a complicated procedure with multiple steps.

This area of lab testing – immunohistochemistry – does not have standardized methods in this country.

As in many areas of medicine, our understanding of ER/PR, from testing to the impact it has on treatment, has advanced in the last ten years.

Our organization is one of very few internationally who have conducted a retrospective review of our testing.

We are amongst the first laboratories in Canada to introduce a new testing system that improves the consistency of results by automating many of the manual steps in the procedure.

The Lawsuit:

Everyone has the right to take whatever action they deem appropriate and we must allow the legal system to address the legal issues.

The outstanding statement of claim restricts our ability to discuss the details of the review process.