

From: [Sharon Smith](#)
To: [Pat Pilgrim](#); [Oscar Howell](#); [Pam Elliott](#);
[Heather Predham](#);
Subject: RE: ER/PR
Date: November-30-07 8:45:20 AM

Sounds good to me, and I think when we find the external Oncologist, part of the contract will have to be their availability to speak to families. That may be very difficult to do, so do we wait and see what the contract looks like before we commit to this, and just say we will confirm that piece of the process once we get a contract?

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From: Pat Pilgrim
Sent: November 29, 2007 6:08 PM
To: Oscar Howell; Pam Elliott; Heather Predham; Sharon Smith
Subject: ER/PR

Hello everyone, I have attached the information I want to send to the other Boards. Can you read and let me know if there is anything substantively wrong....I am not looking for editing! I have underlined the one part of this that I am unclear about and need your comments about this.

Hello Dr. Jenkins, I am now coordinating Eastern Health activities relating to the continuing ER/PR retesting, the Commission of Inquiry and the Class Action Lawsuit. As you are aware, we have recently referred to Mount Sinai some specimens for retesting for patients who are still living....patients who for whatever reason were not sent back in 2005. Also Eastern Health has completed the submission of the specimens for all deceased patients who originally tested negative for the prescribed testing period 1997 – 2005. The results of the retests are now being received within Eastern Health and patients or their Next of Kin (in the case of the deceased) will now have to be contacted. I need to ensure that we have agreement on the process of communication for this. Eastern Health is proposing the following process :

1. **For the living patients whose results have not changed** (i.e. they were originally negative and retest results are negative), Eastern Health is proposing that the results would be sent from us to one coordinating person (*Coordinator*) within your region. This person would then be responsible to

coordinate notification of these patients and any further verification with the DOHCS re completion of this notification. This is very similar to the process used in 2005.

2. **For the living patients whose results have changed** These patients will be referred to a clinical panel within Eastern Health (as in 2005). The panel will review the patient record and make a recommendation regarding any treatment change. The recommendation will be included in a panel letter sent to the current most responsible physician. A copy of the letter will be sent to the *Coordinator* designated for your area.
3. **For deceased patients within the Eastern Health Region** We already have results back on many of these patients who were tested in the initial phase of this in 2005. The only Next of Kin (NOK) that have been notified of any results for this group thus far are the NOK who have been constantly in touch with us. Eastern Health is moving forward to start notifying families of deceased patients. We are doing this as follows: .
 - **Those whose results have not changed.** NOK will be sent a letter indicating the retesting has been done and the results have been received. The NOK will be asked if they want the results, to call a given number. For these cases, the number will connect them with our Quality and Risk Management Department and designated members of the staff there will communicate the results. Eastern Health will verify communication with the DOHCS.
 - **Those whose results changed.** NOK will be sent a letter indicating the retesting has been done and the results have been received. They will be given a different number which will connect to the Director of the Cancer Program. They will be informed of the changed results and notified that if they want to have more information on this, we will send the results to an external oncologist (yet to be determined by us) who will be asked to give an opinion on one question..."Would the deceased have been a candidate for Tamoxifen or the newer medications?
 We will notify the family when the recommendation has been received. **If the NOK requires further explanation, we contract with an external oncologist to speak with the NOK. Eastern Health will verify communication with the DOHCS**
4. **For deceased patients from other regions.** Results will be sent

to your *Coordinator*. Each region will be responsible for notification of NOK and the DOHCS

Please contact me with your response to this proposed process. Thanking you.

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