



EXE - 014574

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Health and Community Services

July 19, 2007

Dr. Kenneth Pritzker
Pathologist-in-Chief
Pathology & Laboratory Medicine (PLM)
Mount Sinai Hospital
600 University Avenue
Toronto, ON
M5G 1X5

Dear Dr. Pritzker:

I am writing in follow-up to your conversation on Tuesday, July 17th, with Mr. Don MacDonald of the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information. As Mr. MacDonald noted, the Department of Health and Community Services is carrying out a review of the events surrounding ER/PR testing of breast cancer patients in Newfoundland and Labrador.

As part of this review, I have asked the Centre for Health Information to prepare a database of all breast cancer patients diagnosed in the province during 1997-2005, including those that had ER/PR testing or retesting carried out at Mount Sinai Hospital. When completed, this database will contain each patient's personal identifiers, as well as a record of their various contacts with the health system specific to their breast cancer treatment. In support of this database I am requesting from Mount Sinai, data on all ER/PR testing/retesting carried out on breast cancer patients in Newfoundland and Labrador. Specifically, I am requesting the following data fields for the period January 1, 1997 – December 31, 2005:

1. Hospital/Health Authority in Newfoundland and Labrador Sample Sent From
2. Date Sample Received at Mount Sinai
3. Date Results Sent Back to Hospital/Health Authority
4. Mount Sinai Research Number (RS #)
5. Newfoundland Specimen #
6. Original Specimen/surgical # (given by Health Authority in NL)
7. Patient Name
8. Health Insurance Number (MCP)
9. Block Number Supplied
10. Comments/Site
11. Tumor
12. Estrogen Receptor (ER)
13. Progesterone Receptor (PR)
14. Internal Controls (IC)
15. Fixation and Processing (F/P)

I assure you that any data provided by the Mount Sinai Hospital to the Centre for Health Information, on behalf of the Department of Health and Community Services, will be held in the strictest confidence, and will only be used by the Department of Health and Community Services in carrying out the aforementioned review.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

ROBERT C. THOMPSON
Deputy Minister

/cf