

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
5:00 p.m.

Lecture Theatre "D", Health Sciences Centre

In Attendance:	Dr. Linda Inkpen, Chair	Dr. Oscar Howell	Dr. John Guy
	Dr. Bill Pollett	Dr. Nick Kum	Dr. Eric Stone
	Dr. Roger Butler	Dr. Frank King	Dr. Peter Rockwood
	Ms. Patricia Pilgrim	Ms. Cathy Burke	Ms. Janet Squires
	Dr. Pradip Joshi	Dr. Frank Noel	Dr. Scott Wilson
	Dr. Kevin Hogan	Dr. Nash Denic	Dr. Kam Mong
	Dr. Ken LeDez	Dr. Benvon Cramer	Ms. Sharon Hopkins
	Ms. Norma Baker	Dr. Geoff Higgins	Ms. Janet Templeton
	Mr. Shawn Thomas		
Regrets:	Dr. M.F. Scully	Dr. Anne Sclater	Dr. Bob Miller
	Dr. Ted Callanan	Dr. Terry O'Grady	Dr. Kara Laing
	Dr. Rick Cooper		

A. ER/PR - Estrogen & Progesterone Receptor

The vast majority of the meeting time was devoted to a discussion of two major issues – ER/PR (Estrogen/Progesterone Receptor Issue) and the Provincial Task Force for Adverse Medical Events.

The agenda for this meeting was altered to accommodate discussion on the ER/PR issue events to date. CBC recently aired an inaccurate story that Eastern Health was suing its physicians involved with this issue. There is the anticipation of much negative media over the next few months. Medical leaders need to understand the ongoing legal processes and maneuverings and, to counterbalance, encourage conversation on the many positive events and changes happening within our organization.

Mr. Dan Simmons, from the legal firm of White, Ottenheimer and Baker, is legal counsel for Eastern Health. He and Dr. Howell provided an update on the ER/PR topic. Mr. Simmons will represent/support those Eastern Health staff who will be participating in the Commission of Inquiry.

The Commission of Inquiry has begun with Madam Justice Margaret Cameron leading the Inquiry. The Commission will examine how breast disease patients received the wrong results from hormone receptor results which were used to assess their treatment options between 1997 and 2005. The Commission will be a two part inquiry; firstly to examine the pathology protocols that were in place 1997 – 2005, and what actions officials took upon discovering the testing problems; and secondly, a review of policy and legal issues surrounding the events. Justice Cameron will deliver her final report and recommendations to the Minister of Health on or before July 30, 2008.

A Class Action Lawsuit has begun against Eastern Health with Lawyer Ches Crosbie representing a group of women breast cancer patients affected by

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faulty ER/PR testing. This lawsuit commences the second week of January and is expected to last until the end of March 2008.

At the same time, Mr. Robert Thompson, Deputy Minister of Health, has also been appointed a special advisor to government to chair a Provincial Task Force on Adverse Health Events.

Considerable discussion took place at MAC around the foregoing information; there are major implications for health care delivery both directly and indirectly in providing ongoing quality patient care processes.

The Peer Review Policy Initiatives must be protected. If appropriate legal protection is not afforded these processes, quality assurance programs, of which Peer Review is integral, will be undermined. Quality and safe patient care programs may cease to exist. While Eastern Health's Board is obviously mired in the implications of this eventuality right now, this must be a priority topic for other health care boards within and without our province as well as the purview of many professional bodies for physicians as well as their health care colleagues. There are also many obvious implications for medical education. Urgent and appropriate legislative review and changes must occur to protect peer review policies and processes.

National standards for many medical test and procedure results are lacking. Work is ongoing and, with time, professional best practice and guideline standards will be more complete. These processes appear not to be well understood in government. Interpretation of data has to occur with some reference to acceptable error guidelines and, where these don't exist, medical result interpretation can be difficult. Such a reality underpins the necessity for strong in-house quality assurance and safety programs. Every support and protection must be given these programs; an environment of blame, retribution, and an ignorance of the complexities of such endeavours will ensure that no such programs will continue to exist! Where physicians and their health care colleagues are antagonized and demoralized by government's public non-support of its health care workers and their delivery of quality and safe patient care, government must be made aware that they will be held directly accountable for inadequate and inappropriate health and medical care in our province!

The proposed Provincial Task Force for Adverse Health Care Events is an endeavour which, in the present work climate both clinically and administratively, cannot be supported. The requests for further reports, statistics, and the like will simply overload the system. Now is not the time!

The chair of MAC will prepare a paper/ letter addressing MAC's serious concerns. This will be presented at the December MAC which will occur before the next Eastern Health board meeting.

B. Diagnostic Imaging Requisitions – Shawn Thomas / Janet Templeton

Mr. Shawn Thomas and Ms. Janet Templeton presented an overview on Diagnostic Imaging Waitlist Management. The purpose of this initiative is to

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improve the timeliness of access to appropriate Diagnostic Imaging Services based on patients' clinical findings and medical histories. The implementation date is December 1, 2007. This is a new initiative that is in the trial stages with changes anticipated as the trial period unfolds.

C. Previous Minutes

MOTION: Moved a seconded that the previous minutes dated October 3, 2007 be approved. **CARRIED.**

Diagnostic Imaging Reports Transcription

Dr. Geoff Higgins advised that the transcription turnaround is approximately one or two days. He advised that a process is being formulated so that the recent challenges with long delays in Diagnostic Imaging transcription reports will not reoccur.

Patient Identification

Dr. Oscar Howell advised that the "Patient Identification" topic is for information. If there are questions or concerns, the topic will again be on the December MAC Meeting.

Deferred Items

- Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Annual Report and List of Membership
- Medical Staff Bylaws
- Operating Rooms – Janeway Site
- Parking
- Program/Clinical Chiefs Reports
 - Child/Women's Health Program (Women's)
 - Cardiac/Critical Care Program (Critical)
 - Emergency/Ambulatory Care Program
 - Rehabilitation/Continuing Care Program
 - Cancer Care Program
- Medical Staff Committee Reports
 - Presentation – Credential Process
 - Credentials Committee – November 5, 2007
 - Regional Infection Control Committee – September 17, 2007 & October 15, 2007
- Report from the President, Medical Association
- Report from the C.O.O.
- New Business
 - Mislabeled Specimens Policy Draft
 - ePresence

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- 2006/2007 HSMR Rates for Our Organization as Calculated by CIHI

D. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:05
a.m. CARRIED.

Dr. Linda Inkpen,
Chair,
Credentials Committee