

Denise Dunn

From: Deborah Thomas-Pennell
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2005 10:19 AM
To: Denise Dunn; Dr. Robert Williams
Subject: FW: 1014182



1014182.doc

-----Original Message-----

From: Media [mailto:media@marqueeinc.com]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2005 9:25 AM
To: Deborah Thomas-Pennell; Susan Bonnell; Elizabeth Strange-Hollett;
Jennifer Deon; Diane Hart
Subject: 1014182

1014182

MARQUEE
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Electronic Media Transcripts

October 17, 2005

Client: Eastern Health Board
Source: NTV Evening News 6:11 P.M. 1014182
Date: October 14, 2005
Ann: Fred Hutton

Announcer: Now to health matters – concerns continue to be raised this evening about the retesting of breast cancer samples at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's. Inconsistencies were discovered in the results and now samples dating back as far as 1997 are being reanalyzed in St. John's and at Mount Sinai Hospital in Ontario. The issue has sparked some criticism from the Canadian Cancer Society. They feel Eastern Health could have been more proactive in their communication with patients. NTV's Carolyn Stokes has been following the story for us.

Peter Dawe: I think there's been a really poor job on getting, you know, this is complicated. I mean you know, the average person, hormone positive, hormone negative, you know, my mom had breast cancer – I can't remember how she tested.

Carolyn Stokes: Peter Dawe, of the Canadian Cancer Society, has spent a lot of time on the phone these past few weeks. He's been speaking with many concerned and confused breast cancer patients who are looking for answers. They want to know whether they are personally affected by

the inaccuracies Eastern Health has found in a number of test results. And for some of those patients it's a matter of life or death.

Dawe: Since 1997, there could be about several hundred women who were told they were negative for estrogen and progesterone receptors when in fact they were positive. And what that means is that you have several hundred women, potentially, who were eligible to go on a different type of therapy that had been clinically proven to be very effective. And so there's, you can read into that and there's all kinds of consequences to that. It could be very drastic. You could have someone who literally didn't survive because of this. And it could be that the person may not have went on it anyway considering the side effects of the medication and their own clinical position. So it's still individual but, you know, with that many women going through, our fair is that yeah absolutely somebody was drastically impacted by this.

Stokes: Peter believes Eastern Health has been conservative in their attempts to actively inform patients because of possible legal implications and the fear of spreading panic. But going that route seems to have done more harm than good.

Dawe: It is a complex period and it's an emotional time for people. So what we'd like the Eastern Health Authority to do is get more and more information out there - specifically and be very proactive on this and explain who it is the group of women we're talking about, explain the process they're going through now of, of notifying these women about the potential for, for retesting.

I know believe that a black cloud is hanging over the heads of many breast cancer patients – this is a breast cancer survivor.

Stokes:

Peter will continue to answer all the emails and phone calls that come his way. But if you're a patient looking for more information, you can check out Eastern Health's website or phone 777-6500.

Carolyn Stokes, NTV News.
