

CIHRT Exhibit P-0196 Page 1

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Bonnell, Susan
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 9:50 AM
Subject: Re:

Thanks Susan. I was in Moncton on Friday and Saturday for FPT health ministers meetings.

>>> "Susan Bonnell" <Susan.Bonnell@easternhealth.ca> 12/11/2006 8:52:21 AM >>>

Susan Bonnell

Director, Strategic Communications

709-777-1426 (1338)

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Abbott, John; Hennessey, Moira; Hynes, Darrell; Osborne, Tom
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 10:25 AM
Subject: Embargoed news release

NEWS RELEASE

Eastern Health releases outcomes of laboratory review

EMBARGO - 9 a.m., December 12, 2006 - St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador - Eastern Health today released the outcomes of its review of estrogen and progesterone receptor (ER/PR) testing conducted by the laboratory at the Health Sciences Centre since 1997. Eastern Health has been focused on collecting, sending, retesting and reviewing all test samples and conducting an extensive quality review within the laboratory since October 2005.

"From the beginning, our health care providers have been motivated by a desire to ensure that our patients have every treatment opportunity that may be available to them and to make sure we provide quality services to the public," said Dr. Oscar Howell, Vice-President of Medical Services for Eastern Health. "In the review period, from 1997 to 2005, 2,760 ER/PR tests were conducted by our laboratory. 939 of these test results were originally negative. These test samples were sent to Mount Sinai Laboratory in Toronto for review. In the majority of cases, the patient's treatment was confirmed appropriate. However, 117 patients had been identified as requiring treatment changes by a panel of oncologists, pathologists and surgeons."

Breast tumor samples are tested for estrogen and progesterone receptors to determine if hormonal therapy such as the drug Tamoxifen may be one treatment option for patients.

Patients who have been notified of a change in result have since met with their treating physicians to determine their current treatment options.

Eastern Health's first priority is its patients and the organization is committed to notifying them about issues that may impact upon their diagnosis or treatment. "Our clinical team members have communicated individually with all patients impacted by this review," says Dr. Howell. "We have had many conversations with the patients involved and we are always willing to discuss the details of a patient's care with them. However, patient confidentiality is an important principle in health care so we do not discuss the details of individual cases publicly."

"We have been assured through our review process, which included consultation with national experts in laboratory medicine, that when we reinstate testing we will provide the people of this province with a high standard of estrogen and progesterone receptor testing," added Dr. Howell.

Eastern Health is dedicated to improving the system. As a result of this review the organization has implemented new means of ensuring high standard patient care such as: improving a Quality Management Program; seeking accreditation for the entire laboratory; and ensuring all technologists and pathologists have received specialized training in immunohistochemistry. The organization is expected to reinstate ER/PR testing at the Health Sciences Centre in the coming year.

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MEDIA CONTACT:
Leona Barrington
Media Relations Officer, Eastern Health
T: 709-777-1339 or 728-7935
leona.barrington@easternhealth.ca

CIHRT Exhibit P-0196 Page 3

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Abbott, John; Hennessey, Moira; Hynes, Darrell; Osborne, Tom
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 10:36 AM
Subject: materials for ER/PR briefing

As promised, please see attached.

Minister, I have printed off a copy for you.

Tansy

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Leona Barrington; susan.bonnell@easternhealth.ca
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 11:11 AM
Subject: How's it going?

Can one of you please give me a call following the briefings on ER/PR so I can update the Minister before the House of Assembly opens this afternoon.

Thanks,
Tansy

From: Moira Hennessey
To: Griffiths, Beverley
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 12:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: materials for ER/PR briefing

As discussed. Thanks.

Moira Hennessey

Assistant Deputy Minister - Regional Health Operations
Department of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Phone: 709.729.3127
Fax: 709.729.4009
E-mail: MHennessey@gov.nl.ca

>>> Tansy Mundon 12/11/2006 10:36 AM >>>
As promised, please see attached.

Minister, I have printed off a copy for you.

Tansy

From: "Leona Barrington" <Leona.Barrington@easternhealth.ca>
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 4:13 PM
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Eastern Health releases outcomes of laboratory review

news release

Eastern Health releases outcomes of laboratory review

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"We have been assured through our review process, which included consultation with national experts in laboratory medicine, that when we reinstate testing we will provide the people of this province with a high standard of estrogen and progesterone receptor testing," added Dr. Howell.

Eastern Health is dedicated to improving the system. As a result of this review the organization has implemented new means of ensuring high standard patient care such as: improving a Quality Management Program; seeking accreditation for the entire laboratory; and ensuring all technologists and pathologists have received specialized training in immunohistochemistry. The organization is expected to reinstate ER/PR testing at the Health Sciences Centre in the coming year.

-30-

Media Contact:

Leona Barrington

Media Relations Officer, Eastern Health

T: 709-777-1339 or 728-7935

leona.barrington@easternhealth.ca

CIHRT Exhibit P-0196 Page 8

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Abbott, John; Hennessey, Moira; Hynes, Darrell; Osborne, Tom
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 5:12 PM
Subject: Fwd: NEWS RELEASE: Eastern Health releases outcomes of laboratory review

FYI

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Darrell Hynes, MHennessey@mobility.blackberry.net, John Abbott, Tom Osborne
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 8:16 PM
Subject: ER/PR coverage

CBC RADIO EVENING NEWS AT 5:00PM Monday, December 11, 2006

1. ANSWERS FOR BREAST CANCER PATIENTS: There are finally more answers about tests for breast cancer patients in this province. Today, Eastern Health released some new information. ["Mark Quinn", reporter; "Peter Dawe", Cancer Society] AIRED: 5:00 PM DURATION: 01:45 REPORTER: DAVE BARTLETT

VOCM RADIO NEWS AT 5:30PM Monday, December 11, 2006

1. BREAST CANCER TESTING REVIEW: Word expected tomorrow on a study from Eastern Health on its review of estrogen progesterone receptor testing in breast cancer patients at the Health Sciences Centre since 1997. ["Renell LeGrow", reporter] AIRED: 5:30 PM DURATION: 01:00 REPORTER: CARLA FOOTE

NTV EVENING NEWS AT 6:00PM Monday, December 11, 2006

4. EASTERN HEALTH'S REPORT RELEASED: A mistake in testing led to incorrect treatment for 117 women in this province suffering from breast cancer. ["Carolyn Stokes", reporter; unknown [Eastern Health;] | STATION: NTV | AIRED: December 11, 2006 at 06:06 PM | DURATION: 02:28 | ANCHOR/REPORTER: HUTTON/CARTER/CAROLYN STOKES | ID: AAL610

8. CANCER TESTS TO CONTINUE: The Eastern Health Corporation says it will resume breast cancer screening tests at its lab in St. John's next year. The corporation suspended testing at the lab 18 months ago after problems with breast cancer screening tests. [Eastern Health;] | STATION: CBNT | AIRED: December 11, 2006 at 06:12 PM | DURATION: 01:28 | ANCHOR: O'Neil/Crowe | ID: AAL616

Sent via Blackberry
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

From: Tansy Mundon
To: tom osborne,moira hennessey,john abbott,darrell hynes
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 9:10 PM
Subject: Eastern Health Releases Outcomes of Laboratory Review

Eastern Health Releases Outcomes of Laboratory Review
December 11, 2006

Word is expected tomorrow on a study from Eastern Health on its review of estrogen and progesterone receptor testing in Breast Cancer patients at the Health Sciences Centre since 1997. Dr. Oscar Howell with medical services at eastern health, says they sent 939 negative tests to Mount Sinai Laboratory in Toronto for review. Results from 117 patients by a panel of oncologists, pathologists and surgeons, indicate they needed treatment changes. Breast Tumor samples are tested for estrogen and progesterone receptors to determine if hormonal therapy may be a treatment option. Howell says the patients have been told of a change in their test results, and they have met to determine further treatment options. However he says further information will not be released at this time, pending a class action lawsuit. Testing is expected to be reinstated at the Health Sciences centre in the coming year.

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E-mail: tansymundon@gov.nl.ca
www.gov.nl.ca/health

From: Tansy Mundon
To: tom osborne,darrell hynes,moira hennessey,john abbott
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 9:11 PM
Subject: 117 N.L. cancer patients receive belated hormone treatment

Note Peter Dawe's comments.

117 N.L. cancer patients receive belated hormone treatment
Last Updated: Monday, December 11, 2006 | 5:33 PM NT
CBC News

More than 100 patients in Newfoundland and Labrador failed to receive a hormone treatment for breast cancer because of a screening problem, health officials said Monday.

The patients were initially disqualified from treatment because of problems with the tests used to determine eligibility.

After tissue samples were retested, 117 patients were started on the hormone treatment they should have received earlier.

Since last year, Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital has been retesting samples from about 900 patients in St. John's who were initially tested between 1997 and 2005. As a result of the retesting, 117 patients who had been denied treatment earlier are now receiving it.

The hormone receptor test shows if cancer cells respond to hormones. If the results are positive, patients are usually treated with the hormone therapy tamoxifen.

The tests are given to women who have been treated for breast cancer in the past. Those who are considered "cancer-free" are still tested frequently in the years following their therapy.

Because of a potential lawsuit, provincial health officials refused to explain if the discrepancy resulted from human error or from new methods of interpreting test results.

Officials also would not say if any patients who were mistakenly denied hormone treatment had died, or were needlessly given mastectomies when they could have been treated with drugs.

"Not receiving this treatment could very well mean a life and death issue for people going through the process," said Peter Dawe, director of the Newfoundland and Labrador chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The lack of disclosure raises questions, said Dawe, about what the problem is and how it can be fixed.

Health officials in Newfoundland and Labrador hope to resume their own hormone testing in the near future, though they can't say when.

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From: Tansy Mundon
To: tom osborne,john abbott,darrell hynes,moira hennessey
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 9:13 PM
Subject: Night Line caller - ER/PR

(8:24) Minnie is a breast cancer patient - in fact she is one of the 117 patients whose tests were conducted incorrectly. To find out last February that she was tested for positive receptors and realized she should have been on a drug for the past eight years, was very hard to hear. She is not getting any answers from the doctors. Minnie does not even know how her chemo helped her. The problem that she has with the health care system is that the doctors do not know why the problem occurred. How can they correct something when they cannot pinpoint the problem, questions Minnie? Something went awfully wrong if for several years people were being treated incorrectly for their breast cancer. Minnie says she may have to enter the hospital again for her breast cancer, and how can she be certain that things will be dealt with in a correct and adequate matter?

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E-mail: tansymundon@gov.nl.ca
www.gov.nl.ca/health

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Darrell Hynes
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2006 10:18 PM
Subject: Re: 117 N.L. cancer patients receive belated hormone treatment

He does indeed

Sent via Blackberry
 Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

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

From: Darrell Hynes
 To: Tansy Mundon <TansyMundon@gov.nl.ca>
 Creation Date: 12/11 10:17 pm
 Subject: Re: 117 N.L. cancer patients receive belated hormone treatment

I hate to say it but peter has a point.

Sent via Blackberry
 Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

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

From: Tansy Mundon
 To: Darrell Hynes <DarrellHynes@gov.nl.ca>
 John Abbott <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>
 Moira Hennessey <MHennessey@gov.nl.ca>
 Tom Osborne <TOsborne@gov.nl.ca>
 Creation Date: 12/11 9:11 pm
 Subject: 117 N.L. cancer patients receive belated hormone treatment

Note Peter Dawe's comments.

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www.gov.nl.ca/health

From: Tom Osborne
To: Tansy Mundon
Date: 12/11/2006 10:33:24 PM
Subject: Re: Night Line caller - ER/PR

We need to be ready for this as well.

Sent via Blackberry
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

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

From: Tansy Mundon
To: Darrell Hynes <DarrellHynes@gov.nl.ca>
John Abbott <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>
Moir Hennessey <MHennessey@gov.nl.ca>
Tom Osborne <TOsborne@gov.nl.ca>
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