

George Tilley

From: George Tilley
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2006 5:32 PM
To: Susan Bonnell
Subject: FW: ER/PR

Will the term "paneling" be understood?

George Tilley
President/Chief Executive Officer
Eastern Health
c/o Corporate Office
Waterford Bridge Rd.
A1E 4J8
Tel: 709-777-1330
Fax: 709-777-1302

From: Heather Predham
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2006 4:13 PM
To: Susan Bonnell; Robert Williams; George Tilley; 'klaing@nctrf.nf.ca'
Subject: RE: ER/PR

Hi,

Nancy and I have had a look...our comments are below.....

Heather

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

From: Susan Bonnell
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2006 3:41 PM
To: Robert Williams; Heather Predham; George Tilley; klaing@nctrf.nf.ca
Subject: ER/PR

Key Messages for potential media inquiries following Independent story, January 29th

- All the results have not yet been returned. However, the majority of results have been returned to our office and we are currently following up with Mount Sinai on the status of the outstanding tests.
- Although most of the test results have been returned to our organization, there has been nothing new to report publicly on this issue. We are still using the protocol announced earlier in the fall to individually notify our patients about their test results.
- All patients whose samples were sent for retesting were contacted directly by officials from Eastern Health. In addition, we advertised our Patient Relations Officer number for any patients with questions or concerns. We also encouraged all patients to discuss the retesting with their family doctors or oncologists, and our physicians tell us that they have been in touch with many of their patients on this issue.
- When a patient's results are returned from Mount Sinai:
 1. The results are forwarded to the region where the patient is being treated for follow-up.
 2. If the patient is cared for by the Cancer Clinic and the test results have not changed, an official from Eastern Health calls the patient directly.

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3. If there is even a small change in the results from one of our patients, the patient's test is paneled by a group of health professionals including surgeons, oncologists and pathologists to determine if there is a suggested change in the course of treatment.
- We do not know how many patients will see a change in their treatment as a result of this retesting. Right now our priority is to ensure that the tests are completed, results are examined and all patients are notified. Once this process is complete we will have a better idea of the percentage of patients impacted by the retesting.
 - Mount Sinai was chosen to do this retesting because of their industry reputation as being one of Canada's leading laboratories.
 - We are unable to give an accurate number of tests sent, tests returned, etc. at this time. To not delay the retesting any longer than absolutely necessary, we did very little pre-screening of samples before sending them to Mount Sinai. In fact, we sent all negative test results and we are discovering that in some cases multiple samples from patients were sent. Therefore we need to wait until the entire process is complete to accurately reflect the number of impacted individuals. [Heather Predham] Why are we saying this? There have been cases where we had to send more than one sample i.e. if the patient had cancer in both breasts...or have had a recurrence. Couldn't we just say that some patients had more than one sample sent? Really our priority at this time is making sure all our patients have their information and that it is accurate. We'll do the adding up after that...like you've said below.
 - Our focus continues to be, first and foremost, on providing every possible treatment option and providing direct and confidential care to our patients. When we are satisfied that we have met all of our patients needs we will then be able to reflect on what the system can learn from this experience.

Susan, is this something for you to say to the media or to hand out? If it's something for you to use it's fine, but if it's a handout it starts off a bit abruptly.....I think....
We have had only one inquiry from CBC Radio (Mark Quinn). No follow-up to date. I can certainly give him a call but am wondering if I am an appropriate spokesperson?



Eastern
Health

Susan Bonnell
Director, Corporate Communications
709-777-1426 (1338)