

From: [Dan Boone](#)
To: [Heather Predham](#);
cc: dhawkins@hiroc.com; mboyce@hiroc.com;
Subject: Re: FW: Patient Letter
Date: October-18-05 2:04:57 PM

Heather:

My initial reaction is that I do not agree with sending this letter at this time. There are a significant number of people whose results will not be changed. Notifying these people may be seen as raising their hopes for treatment possibilities. In most cases, these expectations or hopes will not be satisfied. There is a possibility that we could be sued in a class action by those people who receive this proposed correspondence whose test results do not change. Otherwise these people would not have a cause of action, so sending the letter actually exposes us to a liability which does not now exist.

I have not given significant thought to the issue from the perspective as to whether it is appropriate to test these specimens without advising the patients. However, again my initial thought is that the original consent would be broad enough to cover retesting. With the media coverage and the information already disseminated by you, I would think that most of the people who have tested negative would have enough information to consider whether they would like to be retested if they have not, and to enquire whether they have been retested.

Therefore, I do not see how the letter advances the health care of the affected patients and it increases our exposure to claims for damages. I would recommend against sending it.

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>>> "Heather Predham" <Heather.Predham@hccsj.nl.ca> 10/18/05 1:13 PM
 >>>

Hi,

I played innocent of your response so you can surprise me.....

Heather

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Heather Predham

> Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2005 1:12 PM

> To: 'klaing@nctrf.nf.ca'; Patricia Pilgrim; Dr. Robert Williams; Susan Bonnell

> Subject: Patient Letter

>

> Hi,

>

> I've attached the draft letter with the suggested changes.> > <<Patient Letter.doc>>

>

> Before we send it out we will need to consider the following:

>

> * patients from St. Pierre: is there a central medical contact we can discuss this issue with? Also, we need to get the letter translated.

> * patients in nursing homes and personal care homes. Can we send the letters to the medical director of the nursing home board and the owner/operator of a personal care home for appropriate distribution (ie: next of kin?)

> * Will we send this letter out via registered mail through one central area, such as QSI? We can then monitor the undeliverable mail.

>

> I guess we also have to remember that we will get a negative reaction from the letters, everything from timing, upsetting people with no information and of course we will send some unintentionally to people who have died. I guess we should compare the mailing list to the obituaries to ensure we don't send letters to the recently deceased.

>

> Finally, I think we should be aware that we will not be able to notify everyone....several on the list have moved and we have no other contact information.

>

> I'm going to send this on to Dan Boone as well.....I'm not sure how HIROC will feel about notifying people at this point in time and whether the media attention will make any difference.

>

> let me know what changes you want made.....

>

> Heather

>

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