



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Health & Community Services
Office of the Deputy Minister

October 29, 2007

FAXED
Pg 4 Date Oct 29/07

Ms. Karen McGrath
Chief Executive Officer
Central Regional Health Authority
50 Union Street
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL A2A 2E1

Dear Ms. McGrath:

Re: ER/PR Cases - Confidential

I am soliciting your assistance regarding patients who had original ER/PR tests between 1997 and 2005 in the Central region. Your organization has already sent case information to NLCHI as part of the ER/PR database which it is developing for the Department. NLCHI's further work has resulted in some questions on a portion of these cases. The questions have been divided into two groups, each with an associated list, as follows:

1. List One (attached)

This list contains one patient who was identified by Central RHA to NLCHI as having negative ER/PR results (from the Eastern Health laboratory) between 1997 and 2005 and also sent for re-testing in 2005/06. NLCHI has been unable to find information within Eastern Health information systems or in a separate data file provided by Mount Sinai Hospital to verify that this case has been re-tested. Therefore, we ask that you determine from your own information systems or files whether you can verify that this case has been re-tested.

If so, please forward to us the following information: date retested, place re-tested, ER/PR score/result and a verification that the patient/family was contacted with the result. NLCHI will contact your organization if any additional information beyond these items will be necessary.

If the case has not been re-tested, please inform us if there was a valid reason that a re-test was not requested.

- 2 -

If the case should have been retested, please take the necessary action to forward this case as a consult to Mount Sinai Hospital as soon as possible. You should also prepare to communicate with the patient/family regarding this re-test and we would be pleased to discuss with you the timing and approach that might be taken.

2. List Two (attached)

This list contains patients which we have verified as being re-tested at Mount Sinai Hospital, but are not included on Eastern Health's August 1, 2007 spreadsheet. Therefore, while we are confident that a re-test was done, we do not know whether the patients/families have been contacted regarding the outcome of the re-tests. Therefore, we ask that you determine from your records whether these patients were contacted by Central RHA after the re-test results were provided to you. If so, please let us know, on a case by case basis, the date on which the patient/family was contacted. If not, please explain why these patients/families were not contacted.

Thank you for your cooperation. Given the urgency of this matter, we would appreciate knowing the results of your review by Wednesday, October 31. If not possible by that date, please call me so we can discuss a schedule.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. THOMPSON
Deputy Minister (Acting)

/bd

Attachments

2

Response to Sep 20/07 Questions from CIHI – Updated Oct 24/07

| Name | MCP | Specimen Number | Region | Original ER | Original PR | | Status Assistance |
|------|-----|-----------------|---------|-------------|-------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | | S-345-05 | Central | <30 | 80 | | Pos ER result, contact Central |

2

| Centre for Health Information, October 26, 2007-List of patients NLCHI identified not in August 1 st , EH file for documentation of communication | | | | | |
|--|-----|------------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| Name | MCP | Specimen # | Region | Source of Case | Note |
| | | S3435-98 | Gander | Consultations | This patient is deceased |
| | | 01:2457 | Grand Falls | EH Lab Written Lists | HSC Sp # 01:8894. Oncologist requested retesting |
| | | | Gander | EH Lab Written Lists | |