

**Thompson, Robert**

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**From:** Pat Pilgrim [pat.pilgrim@easternhealth.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 9:56 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Robert  
**Subject:** Re: Questions

Thanks Robert. I will have Diane follow up with Glenda in the morning. P

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

From: Thompson, Robert <rthompson@gov.nl.ca>  
To: Pat Pilgrim  
Sent: Thu Feb 21 21:47:27 2008  
Subject: RE: Questions

Pat:

Regarding the whole presentation, we will be saying that this is about describing a database, not evaluating ER/PR testing or providing any clinical opinions. Those jobs are left to the Commission or people who appear before the commission. Nevertheless, the database includes some key findings that it is appropriate to make public as they database is being handed over to the commission.

One of those key results is the change rate. This is the most technically complex part of the presentation. First we describe the varying cutoff rates that can be employed. Then we describe the literature - without identifying any one study or any one change rate as better than the other. Then we present the change rate for ER negative and ER/PR negative, showing how depending on the definition and approach it can be calculated as anywhere from 20-45%. We do not take a position on which is the right calculation. The media may not be satisfied with such diverse rates, but we will simply say it is up to the Commission to sort out how they believe the data should be presented.

On "no contact" our core message is that there are 34 patients (subject to change) who were never contacted/or not sure were contacted about retesting. We will point out that none of these people had changed results according to our definitions. If asked about treatment change, we will say the database does not evaluate treatment change. That is an issue for the Commission. We may be asked why these people were not contacted. We will say we don't know the reason for each case, but there are a number of these cases, because they were "no change", that Eastern Health had made a decision would not be contacted. The government's position is that all these cases should be contacted and we have asked the RHAs to make these contacts. We will ensure it is understood that none of these results, according to our criteria, were conversions.

Yes, I am sure you can get the Minister's speaking notes close to the time of delivery, because they will no doubt be undergoing revision, but it would be better for Diane to get them from Glenda.

Please call if you wish to discuss anything (682-8946).

Robert

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

From: Pat Pilgrim [mailto:pat.pilgrim@easternhealth.ca]  
Sent: Thu 2/21/2008 6:17 PM  
To: Thompson, Robert  
Subject: Questions

Hi Robert, Left you a message earlier and asked you to call me. Have not heard from you and I will soon be off line and not available by phone as I go and do my lecture.be back on line about 9pm. I am asking for the following:

\* On the slide deck, can I get some idea what the presenter will be saying about the Database Change Rate Slide. It would be very helpful for me to know what it is that is being said about this table, because I think this is a key area that I will

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have to respond to.

\* Also, I understand that Debbie, etc. are still working on the "no contact, don't know if contacted" list. I would like to know what the outcome of that is as this will definitely be an area for potential questions for me.

\* And lastly, is there any possibility that I can get a copy of the Minister's speaking notes? This would be most helpful, as you can imagine?

Thanks for any assistance, Robert. I know this has been a very hectic day for you all. It hasn't been a great day for us either.  
Pat

Patricia Pilgrim

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