

**From:** "Sharon Smith" <Sharon.Smith@easternhealth.ca>  
**To:** "Beverley Griffiths" <BGriffiths@gov.nl.ca>  
**Date:** Wed, Mar 7, 2007 12:30 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Some Info Yet Again!

Hi Bev,

ER PR testing was restarted on Feb. 1st, 2007. A major effort has been made by the lab program to implement a QA process to ensure reliability of testing, including the designation of a small group of pathologists to perform this testing, led by a pathologist who has completed a breast pathology subspecialty. They also are sending specimens to Mount Sinai every month for rechecks to ensure inter-rater reliability. If you need further information about that, you should contact Dr. Denic.

There have not been many issues since the technical briefing, we did have one individual who had not seen a doctor to get her results (a number of attempts had been made to contact her, but she was missed and she did go to the press in January) and we know the court case is proceeding under Ches Crosbie and I have no further word on that and can't connect with our Risk manager at this point. In terms of Lab accreditation, they will be surveyed in September as part of a pilot project with the Canadian Counsel on Health Services Accreditation.

Out of province referral, we have sent 85 patients away for treatment. They are staying at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, with increased costs to us for accommodation, of course!! There have not been any major issues, just some accounting types of things for us as we don't pay for incidentals such as high speed internet and in room movies, but overall things are going fine. We did send a couple of patients up for treatment, but the treatment plan changed upon re assessment in Toronto and the doctors there decided not to treat the patient. This is not an uncommon thing, and I asked the head of Radiation Oncology in Toronto to let us know if there are grounds for concern, but he feels the referral was reasonable.

Construction for the bunkers is ~4-6 weeks behind, with an estimated completion date of July 31st. They expect to gain time once spring comes, as weather has caused some delay (go figure!). The tender is under review and new equipment should be selected in the next week.

We will continue with the referral process and expect to send ~ 8 people a month until October or even November if things are delayed.

I think that covers it, if you need more, let me know  
Sharon

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

From: Beverley Griffiths [mailto:BGriffiths@gov.nl.ca]  
Sent: March 5, 2007 4:23 PM  
To: Sharon Smith  
Subject: Some Info Yet Again!

Hi Sharon:  
I do not need this today!!

I am updating information for the Minister on various issues in preparation for the opening of the House of Assembly soon.

1. Retesting of Breast Cancer Patients (ER/PR Testing)

- a) Are new patients now being tested in St. John's.
- b) what measures are put in place to reduce the risk of a similar problem occurring in the future?
- c) have there been many issues since the technical media briefing December 11th/06 on this issue?
- d) Last note said that Eastern Health filed an affidavit in court by Dec 15 and lawyers have to file documents and case law with the court by Feb9/09 at which time a request is made for the hearing of the certification application...any word on this?
- e) where are you with accreditation of lab services?

2. Out of Province Cancer Treatments

- a) How many out so far?
- b) is the bunker project on schedule?
- c) Have there been many patient issues with travel?

Thanks in Advance! A small email response on each is more than sufficient.

Bev