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# HealthCare

Corporation of St. John's

## MEMO

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**TO:** Provincial Laboratory Directors  
Program Director, Laboratory Medicine Program  
Divisional Managers, Division of Anatomic Pathology

**FROM:** Dr. D. Cook  
Acting Clinical Chief - Laboratory Medicine Program

**DATE:** April 27, 2000

**RE:** **HER 2/neu Expression**

Effective April 1, 2000, pathologists at the Health Care Corporation of St. John's have begun reporting on HER 2/neu overexpression. HER 2/neu overexpression will only be reported following a request from Oncology. We are using the DAKO Kit which has been approved by FDA and Health Canada. We are using the grading system as our standardized way of reporting. This grading system was also recommended by the Dako Corporation, as per our meeting with DAKO representatives on October 15, 1999. We will be remodelling our standardized report based on the Mayo Clinic report. Reporting of HER 2/neu protein overexpression is given as negative, weakly positive or strongly positive. This is followed by the score. This information is submitted on top of the report. An explanation of the scoring system is given underneath and is also submitted as part of the report. Attached is a form outlining the scoring system.

We will be able to perform HER 2/neu Immunoperoxidase stains on paraffin blocks on cases referred in. Once the stains are completed, both the paraffin blocks and the slides will be referred back to your hospital. At this point in time, reporting of HER 2/neu overexpression will be the responsibility of the pathologist who ordered the stain. It is also recommended that for evaluation of breast biopsies for HER 2/neu overexpression, the biopsies should be fixed overnight for at least 18 hours.

If you have any other questions concerning this, feel free to call me at (709) - 777-5482.

Sincerely yours,

*Donald M Cook*

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E: 06/03/00  
ME: 1131

LABORATORY NPR - HCC \*\*LIVE\*\*  
PTH CANNED TEXT DICTIONARY

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MONIC ACT NAME DATA FLDS RFMT WIDTH

HER2 Y HER2/NEU IMMUNOPEROXIDASE N 92

TEXT

The HCCSJ uses the interpretation guidelines as recommended by the DAKO Herceptest, which is the FDA and CSA approved testing method for Her2/neu overexpression. The guidelines are as follows:

STAINING INTENSITY SCORE	STAINING PATTERN	HER2 OVEREXPRESSION ASSESSMENT
0	No staining is present or partial membrane staining is present in less than 10% of malignant cells.	Negative
1+	Weak/barely perceptible membrane staining is present in greater than 10% of malignant cells, but the cells are only stained in part of their membrane.	Negative
2+	Weak to moderate complete membrane staining is present in greater than 10% of malignant cells.	Weakly Positive
3+	Strong complete membrane staining is present in greater than 10% of malignant cells.	Strongly Positive