

November 27, 2003

Dr. G. Ejekam
Chairperson
Surgical Pathology Review Committee
Division of Anatomic Pathology
General Hospital Site
Health Care Corporation of St. John's
St. John's, NL

Dear Dr. Ejekam:

The recommendations of the Surgical Pathology Review Committee were submitted to the Clinical Chiefs' meeting on November 25, 2003. At the meeting, there was general acknowledgement that there is indeed a problem with submitting pertinent information, not only on pathology requisitions but with many other requisitions throughout the Health Care Corporation of St. John's.

In regards to the pathology requisitions, it was felt that the Clinical Chiefs should bring this issue back to their programs for discussion. It was also felt that education is an important in convincing physicians that pertinent clinical information aids in diagnostic interpretation of pathology specimens. It was also suggested that in regards to the perioperative and ambulatory care program that specimens should not be submitted to Pathology without proper requisitions and without proper clinical information. There needs to be a process in place to adequately enforce this. There was also a suggestion that specific requisitions with tick-off boxes or blanks should be designed for specific systems such as dermatological biopsies or genitourinary specimens. In other words, there would be specific requisitions for specific organ systems. There was also a suggestion that before specimens could be released to the lab that clinical information should be entered into the hospital information system in some form of standardized format.

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There was also some discussion that the Laboratory Medicine Program should reject some specimens that were not accompanied by properly filled-out requisition forms. I would appreciate it if this information could be brought to the Surgical Pathology Review Committee for their comments.

Sincerely yours,

Donald M. Cook, MD, FRCPC, FCAP
Clinical Chief, Laboratory Medicine Program
Health Care Corporation of St. John's