

Thompson, Robert

From: Thompson, Robert
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2008 12:08 PM
To: 'Louise Jones'; 'Pat Pilgrim'
Cc: Keats, Don; 'Don MacDonald'; Gregory, Deborah
Subject: ER/PR Search Strategies

Louise:

NLCHI has completed the assessment of search strategies used by the RHAs between 2005 and 2008 to identify patients that received ER/PR tests between 1997 and 2005. We would like to thank the personnel within your organization for their cooperation in this regard.

NLCHI concluded that the best standard for electronic searching would be to use the search term "breast" and then perform a manual review of the identified files for each year to determine if there are any additional cases that were not identified in previous searches. While the probability of finding extra cases may be small, the fact that previously unidentified cases were found this spring indicates that the additional search is worthwhile. On behalf of the Minister I am asking you to initiate this search process for patients of the St. John's sites. Carbonear and Clarenville sites do not require the same process. NLCHI will be available to answer any questions about their assessment and to record in the ER/PR database any new information found in the search process.

We realize the search process will require a significant amount of time, so any overtime costs incurred for this purpose will be reimbursed by the Department. Your officials will be in the best position to estimate how much time this activity will take and the number of people who will need to be directed to it. Our expectation is that it can be completed within four weeks from its start date, though we would appreciate hearing from you in this regard.

In addition, NLCHI identified that other RHAs and the "out of town" Eastern Health sites should perform a cross-check of their files with a list, generated by Eastern Health, of patients who received ER/PR tests in St. John's. We understand the compilation of these lists for other RHAs and "out of town" patients is a straightforward matter. NLCHI can answer any questions about the target group if there is any confusion. We will supply you with the specific person in the other RHAs to whom the lists should be sent. We will leave it with you to identify the responsible officials in Carbonear and Clarenville.

At the end of this process we will ask NLCHI to generate a count on any new cases that have been identified.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We are available to meet as necessary to facilitate this project.

Your assistance with the above is appreciated.

Robert Thompson
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),
Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events
709.729.4092 (p)
709.682.8946 (c)