

Barrett, Lorraine

From: Thompson, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 10:19 AM
To: Barrett, Lorraine
Subject: FW: ER/PR Electronic Search of Pathology Reports for St. John's Sites
Attachments: AR-M550N_20081021_092600.pdf

Pls prepare for disclosure

Robert Thompson
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),
Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events
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From: Joyce Penney [mailto:Joyce.Penney@easternhealth.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 9:24 AM
To: Thompson, Robert; Keats, Don; Bennett, Pam; Louise Jones; Joyce Penney; Dianne Smith; Pat Pilgrim
Subject: ER/PR Electronic Search of Pathology Reports for St. John's Sites

Forwarded on behalf of Louise Jones

Good Morning Mr. Thompson:

Attached please find Eastern Health's response to your request directing EH to conduct an electronic ER/PR search of pathology reports for the St. John's Sites.

Original to follow via Canada Post.

Thanks Joyce

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20 October 2008

Mr. Robert Thompson,
 Secretary to Cabinet on Health Issues
 Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
 Confederation Building, 1st Floor, West Block
 P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL
 A1B 4J6

Dear Mr. Thompson: *Robert*

This is written as a follow-up to your request received in my office at 1200 hours on October 17, 2008 directing Eastern Health to conduct an electronic ER/PR search of pathology reports for the St. John's Sites. The letter indicates that this search should be conducted using the search term BREAST and then performing a manual review of the files to determine if there are any additional cases not previously identified. The request also indicated that this work should be completed within four (4) weeks from its start date and if this was not possible to notify you of our anticipated timeframe.

Your letter indicates that this search should be conducted in the broadest word search utilizing the word BREAST. Since we have received your request, we have had discussions with Mr. Don MacDonald and Dr. Reza Alaghebandan of NLCHI. This discussion revealed that using the search methodology that approximately 1,000 pathology reports per year will have to be manually reviewed. In my discussion with you, you also indicated that NLCHI has identified that a review of each pathology report would take approximately three (3) minutes. We have had further discussions with Dr. Reza Alaghebandan and Mr. Don MacDonald and the outcome of this discussion is that we estimate, given the fact that the report will need to be initially reviewed and rechecked for accuracy that the actual timeline per pathology report review will be closer to 8 – 10 minutes. I would also remind you that one of the issues with conducting this review is that it is a manual process and as such open to the potential for error.

Based upon Eastern Health's estimate of ten (10) minutes to review reports alone, it would take approximately 1300 hours for this review to be completed. In addition to this, the methodology used to conduct the review and a database specific for this task needs to be created prior to the start of any review of reports.

Mr. Robert Thompson, Chairperson
Secretary to Cabinet on Health Issues

20 October 2008

Eastern Health has learned many lessons as a result of the ER/PR issue, not the least of which is in a process such as what is now to be undertaken that there is a need to identify and dedicate a "Team" of individuals to carry out this assignment. The Team would consist of staff that are appropriately trained to read and code the pathology reports, information management specialists and identified leader responsible to ensure that the task is carried out appropriately, and consultant pathologists to review pathology reports that require further interpretation. We also have learned that this team should be relatively small, no more than 4 – 5 individuals who are totally released from their day-to-day operations to carry out this task. Ms. Pilgrim has had discussion with Mr. Don MacDonald of NLCHI and requested that NLCHI take the lead role in this review. NLCHI has agreed to establish the methodology, provide the project leader, and conduct the initial search using the term "BREAST". In addition Eastern Health's role would be to provide personnel to manually review the approximately 8,000 pathology reports.

To conduct this review in the four (4) week timeframe as requested would require a minimum of eight (8) full-time reviewers from Eastern Health. As Eastern Health does not have the flexibility in its current system to release appropriately qualified staff, I have requested if there is any assistance available from the Department of Health and Community Services. In discussion with Mr. Don Keats today he indicated they cannot be of assistance with this review. We are therefore attempting to identify and release individuals from their current job to carryout this review. At this time we believe we will not be able to identify eight (8) individuals and will likely only be able to identify a maximum of (4) four individuals. Therefore, the review will take a minimum of eight (8) weeks. I will update you with respect to the anticipated time line for completion once the availability of staff is determined.

I also note that carrying out this review will again delay Eastern Health's analysis related to ER/PR issues.

If you require any additional information regarding this project and our progress, please feel free to contact Ms. Patricia Pilgrim at 777-1306.

Sincerely,



Louise Jones
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer

cc Mr. Don Keats, Deputy Minister
Ms. Patricia Pilgrim, COO