



November 23, 2007

Dr. Robert Williams
10 Jasper Street
St. John's, NL
A1A 4B6

Dear Dr. Williams:

RE: *ER/PR Testing*

Attached are certified copies of extracts from various meeting minutes of the VPs of Medical Services at which you reported on the issues surrounding the ER/PR testing.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Peddle
Executive Director

Encl.

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14. Pathology Review

Cathi discussed the workload measurements for pathology. The Department has agreed to hire an external consultant and it is hoped to have the work completed by the end of December 2006. The report will then go to Treasury Board for action.

(g) **ER and PR Receptors**

Bob Williams provided an update on reports being returned from Mount Sinai Hospital. Larry advised there has been no follow up with any of the patients in the Central area. Bob Williams advised that by April 2006 they hope to start testing patients in Eastern Health rather than continue to send tests to Mount Sinai Hospital. The difference will be that the report will include an interpretation of the slide. It is expected 2 or 3 pathologists will do all the work associated with breast cancer. There was some discussion on the type of correspondence that should go to families of patients who are deceased. It was agreed that we need to have a standard letter so that the same information would go to all families.

(e) *Pathology Reports*

There was some discussion over the quality of pathology reports on breast cancer. Bob Williams went through a number of scenarios in which concerns were raised over the quality of the tests and the reports that were being received. He agreed to keep the VPs of Medical Services aware of what is happening.

20 Update on Screening for Breast Cancer

Bob Williams gave an update on some of the problems incurred with getting results back from Mount Sinai Hospital. It is hoped by the end of January most of the backlog will be eliminated. There was a question raised about what is happening in Nova Scotia as it was understood that Nova Scotia has started to do some of their own testing. Bob noted that one of the key recommendations coming from the consultants is that there be a smaller group of pathologists actually reading the tests results with regard to breast cancer.