

Site Chief Meeting  
Laboratory Conference Room  
Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Dr. Don Cook  
Dr. Nash Denic  
Dr. Lynn Morris-Larkin  
Dr. Simon Avis  
Mr. Barry Dwyer

1.0 Minutes of March 20, 2007 meeting. This will be approved at the next meeting of the site chiefs.

2.0. Delivery of service during summer 2007. Dr. Morris-Larkin reported that due to severe reduction in Pathology manpower levels, it will be extremely difficult to provide an adequate service during the months of July, August and early September of 2007. In the first few weeks of August 2007 there will be no availability for Cytology and prostate sign out. She notes that during the week of May 14, 2007, there are currently 25 prostatic biopsy cases that are not assigned to a Pathologist due to the shortage. It is to be noted that these do not include cases that are already assigned to Calgary Laboratory Services. It is also noted that due to the anticipated shortage of Pathology Assistants during the summer months that Pathologist may be expected to taking up grossings which will certainly worsen an already critical situation.

Mr. Barry Dyer brought up the issue of drawing up a contract between Eastern Health and Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) for the handling of the prostatic biopsies. Mr. Dwyer will also liaison with Dynacare regarding the possibility of outsourcing cytology cases to them. There was strong concern around the table as to the ----- anatomical pathology ability to sustain subspecialty sign out.

Discussion followed as to a need to develop a mechanism to send the postatic biopsies to Calgary. It is estimated that ten prostatic cases will be submitted per week. Reports from Calgary will be faxed back to Eastern Health with the information on these reports will be entered into Meditech with a disclaimer. The final sign out via electronic signature will be issued either by the site chief from the General Hospital or the clinical chief of the laboratory medicine program. A hard copy of the Calgary report will be submitted to the attending physician along with a copy of the Eastern Health report.

In regards to flow cytometry, these are currently handled by Dr. Morris-Larkin, Dr. Pirzada, and Dr. Marshall.

3.0 Autopsy service. There will be problems with availability of autopsy technical staff during the Summer months due to medical, physical abilities and holidays. We may potentially be facing severe technical shortage which will negatively impact the availability of delivering a viable autopsy service. There was discussion regarding the possibility of putting the autopsy service on hold for a three week period in July. This will have serious negative implication not only hospital autopsies, but on the forensic service as well. There is a need to look at the long term issue and make sure we have a second autopsy technician who is appropriately trained. Mr. Dyer will be contacting a number of technologists including those who are retired and have a past experience in the autopsy service and to see whether they are willing to help us out during the summer months.

4.0 Material issue at St. Clare's and Transcription. A replacement for Judy Thomas who will be retiring at the end of May 2007 has been identified. This individual is currently in another program, Mr. Dyer is working to release/transfer her to the laboratory medicine program. This individual will obviously need time for training and inservice before she can assume her duties at St. Clare's.

Mr. Dyer states that a new transcription system will be put in place hopefully by early to mid June. Training is required for Steno's and Pathologists.

#### 5.0 Tissue No Value

The policy has been approved at Clinical Chief's meeting and MAC. Specimens will be grossed only with no microscopic description. An SOP has to be written up with communication and liaison between pathologists and technologists before the new policy is implemented.

#### 6.0 Pathology Assistants

Training has started on our new Pathology Assistant, however, this means that time is currently taken away from service in order to help with the new Pathology Assistant's training. There is also a concern that Pathology Assistants are getting different directors from different pathologists leading to confusion and poor communication. Daily conferences are being held between the Pathologists and Pathology Assistants.

#### 7.0 Locum Pathologist

Dr. Larry Lacey has concerns on autopsies that he has been required to complete. There is concern about lack of gross descriptions and PBD's. Dr. Denic has advised him to complete those autopsies and surgicals which have all the appropriate information.

#### 8.0 Residents

Dr. Lynn Morris Larkin has expressed strong concerns over the level of residents training, and has felt the program may not be able to sustain residency training.

There are issues over cases currently going to Dynacare the residents are not seeing.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Donald Cook, M.D., F.R.C.P.C.,  
Site Chief, St. Clare's Site  
St. John's Hospital Eastern Health.