

Kara Laing

From: Leona Barrington [Leona.Barrington@hccsj.nl.ca]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 12:32 PM
To: Robert Williams; George Tilley; Heather Predham; Pam Elliott; Nebojsa Denic; Dr. Kara Laing; Terry Gulliver; Denise Dunn; Susan Bonnell
Subject: ER/PR Headlines
Attachments: Family pursues suit over faulty cancer test, CBC, May 18, 2006.pdf

Good afternoon,

Below are the headline clips from Mark Quinn's piece this a.m. - it was the lead story on CBC. The story also appears on the web site, which I've attached. The piece was fairly short and balanced. He did interview Peter Dawe whose statements were not disparaging.

CBC RADIO ST JOHN'S MORNING SHOW 6-8AM Thursday, May 18, 2006

FAMILY SUING EASTERN HEALTH: The family of a woman who died this spring is now suing Eastern Health for damages. 43-year old Michelle Hanlon was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. A lawsuit she filed before her death claims she was not given the right treatment because of a mistake made by Eastern Health's laboratory in St. John's. ["Mark Quinn", CBC Reporter] AIRED: 07:45 AM DURATION: 06:00
REPORTER: JEFF GILHOOLY

CBC RADIO NEWS AT 7:00AM Thursday, May 18, 2006

FAMILY SUES EASTERN HEALTH: The family of a woman who died last month says it will continue to fight her legal battle against the Eastern Health Authority. ["Peter Dawe", Provincial Chapter of Canadian Cancer Society]TIME: 07:00 AM DURATION: 01:50
REPORTER: MARK QUINN



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Family pursues suit over faulty cancer test

Last updated May 18 2006 11:28 AM NDT
 CBC News

The family of a woman who died of cancer last month says it will continue to fight her legal battle against Eastern Health over an inaccurate test.

Michelle Hanlon, 43, died after a six-year struggle with breast cancer. Last year, she launched a lawsuit against Eastern Health, the regional health authority in Eastern Newfoundland.

Hanlon claimed she did not get treatment that may have helped her because of an inaccurate lab test.

Hanlon had had a hormone receptor test after her diagnosis, to determine if she should receive hormone treatment, such as tamoxifen.

Hanlon was told her results were negative, and that she would probably not benefit from tamoxifen.

Subsequent tests, however, found that Hanlon was positive. In court documents, Hanlon claimed that mistake meant she was denied proper treatment.

Hanlon's family is not commenting on the case, but said that one of Hanlon's wishes was to see the court case proceed.

Last fall, Eastern Health announced there had been problems with some hormone receptor tests done at a lab in St. John's.

- FROM OCT. 14, 2005: [Flawed cancer tests raise patients' concerns](#)

Dozens of patients, the authority said, had been given the wrong results.

Eastern Health officials will not comment on Hanlon's case.

However, in a statement of defence filed with Newfoundland Supreme Court, Eastern Health denied that it was negligent with Hanlon's care. The authority has asked for the case to be dismissed.



Peter Dawe says he wants Eastern Health to restore confidence to the cancer testing system. (CBC)

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Peter Dawe, executive director of the Newfoundland and Labrador chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society, will not discuss the court case, either, but says Eastern Health needs to restore confidence in the testing system.

"The big next step is, how do we continue, and have a guarantee and confidence in the testing procedure as it goes forward?" Dawe said.

"We want to make sure that this doesn't happen again."

Dawe said he will continue to work with Eastern Health to ensure the tests it gives cancer patients are accurate.

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