



Eastern  
Health

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Eastern Health Releases Review of Laboratories**

**July 29, 2010: St. John's, NL** – Eastern Health today released the Review of Laboratories of Eastern Health by University Health Network (UHN) Laboratory Medicine Program.

Eastern Health undertook the review following the discovery in February of testing errors related to cyclosporine within the biochemistry laboratory. As part of this review, UHN reviewed the laboratories within the Health Sciences Centre and St. Clare's Mercy Hospital. This included on-site visits to each of the laboratories; a review of global operations, safety, Quality System development and Laboratory Information Systems at both facilities; review of documentation including policies, processes, procedures, and records; and, interviews with laboratory medical and scientific leadership and staff.

Further, UHN conducted a detailed review of the cyclosporine testing error and responded to the questions that were raised in the internal review of the incident that had been carried out by Eastern Health.

"This was a very comprehensive review of one of Eastern Health's core programs," said Vickie Kaminski, President and CEO of Eastern Health. "The Laboratory Medicine Program is a key component of the clinical care we provide and as such must function within high standards of quality and safety. I am pleased to say that this review did not identify any major risk issues nor did it identify any great surprises."

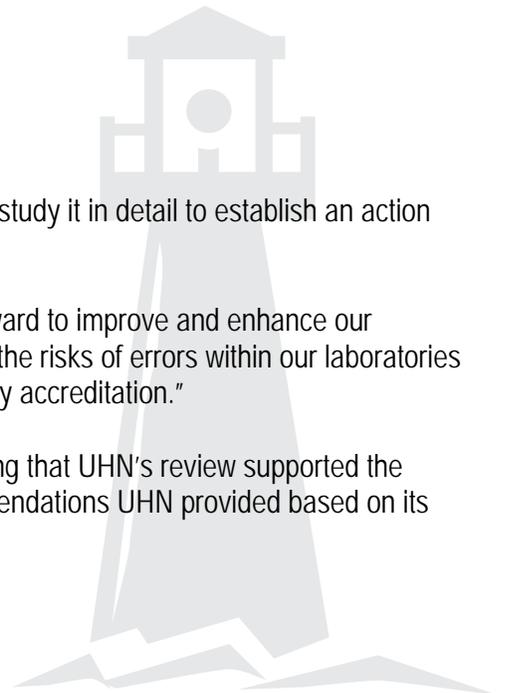
However, Ms. Kaminski acknowledged that many issues have been identified as a result of the review. The review highlights the need for Eastern Health to implement a dynamic and integrated Quality Management System. Further, it noted that four common themes that are evident through the observations and recommendations. These include:

- Leadership and Resources
- Clinical Practice
- Documentation
- Infrastructure.

Eastern Health received the completed review earlier today and will now study it in detail to establish an action and cost analysis to implement the recommendations.

"This report will be an invaluable tool for Eastern Health as we move forward to improve and enhance our laboratory services," said Ms. Kaminski. "Our ultimate goal is to manage the risks of errors within our laboratories to the extent possible. The review will also assist us prepare for laboratory accreditation."

Ms. Kaminski also welcomed the review of the cyclosporine incident noting that UHN's review supported the findings of the internal review. Eastern Health will also study the recommendations UHN provided based on its review of incident.



"I want to thank the team of UHN that participated in this review," said Ms. Kaminski. "I also want to thank all of our laboratory employees for their willing participation in this review. I commend them for their efforts every day and for readily accepting change that will lead to better care for our patients."

The Review of the Laboratories of Eastern Health is available at [www.easternhealth.ca](http://www.easternhealth.ca)

### **About Eastern Health**

Eastern Health is the largest, integrated health authority in Newfoundland and Labrador employing over 13,000 dedicated employees and serving a population of more than 290,000 people. The authority has an annual budget of over \$1 billion and offers the full continuum of health and community services including public health, long-term care, community services, hospital care and unique provincial programs and services. Its geographic boundaries extend from St. John's west to Port Blandford including all communities on the Avalon, Burin and Bonavista Peninsulas.

### **About University Health Network**

University Health Network consists of Toronto General, Toronto Western and Princess Margaret Hospitals. The scope of research and complexity of cases at University Health Network has made it a national and international source for discovery, education and patient care. It has the largest hospital-based research program in Canada, with major research in cardiology, transplantation, neurosciences, oncology, surgical innovation, infectious diseases, and genomic medicine. University Health Network is a research and teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto.

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