

Eastern Health commences review of radiologist services at the Burin Peninsula Health Centre

May 22nd, 2007 – Burin, Newfoundland and Labrador – Acting on concerns about the quality of recent radiology reports, Eastern Health announced today it has commenced a review of the services provided by a new radiologist at the Burin Peninsula Health Centre.

A radiologist, who began working at the Burin Peninsula Health Centre in November 2006, has been temporarily relieved of clinical responsibilities pending the outcome of an extensive review of the approximately 6,000 reports generated by this physician. These 6,000 reports were performed on approximately 3,500 patients.

“Our first priority is our patients. We are taking this issue very seriously,” says George Tilley, President and C.E.O. of Eastern Health. “At this point, we are still in the very early stages of this review. As we further complete this review, we will be in a better position to determine whether the quality of the reporting by this radiologist is at an acceptable level.”

This review process will include:

- All 6,000 reports, affecting approximately 3,500 patients, will be reviewed by qualified radiologists.
- Any changes in results will be communicated to the ordering physician. We anticipate the process will take a number of weeks to complete.
- A memo will be sent this week to all physicians who have referred patients to the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre for diagnostic imaging services and a follow-up meeting is planned.
- Patients or physicians with concerns or questions about the process should call 1-877-444-1399.

“It is important to note at this time that these are potential concerns; however, we are acting immediately and taking a very cautious approach as we are dealing with the quality of radiology services and patient safety,” says Tilley. “Eastern Health is committed to ensuring we provide quality radiology services at all times, and there are systems in place to identify and address potential issues as they arise.”

Radiology services will continue to be available uninterrupted at the Burin Peninsula Health Centre.

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Media availability beginning at 1p.m. today

