



Eastern
Health

NEWS RELEASE

Update on Burin Peninsula Health Centre radiologist review

June 8th, 2007 – Burin, Newfoundland and Labrador – Eastern Health announced today that a re-read of a radiologist's reports at the Burin Peninsula Health Centre is complete with exception of bone density scans, to be completed at a later date.

The past two weeks have been focused on the first phase of the process which involved 22 radiologists re-reading approximately 4,600 reports. The focus for the next phase will be communicating with physicians and patients, ensuring all reports have been re-read, and compiling a detailed summary of the outcomes of the review. The process of patient notification has already begun.

"Thanks to the cooperation of staff and radiologists of Eastern Health, we were able to complete the re-read within a two-week period, with quality assurance top of mind," says Dr. Oscar Howell, VP of Medical Services at Eastern Health. "We hope that our ability to complete this work within this time frame will alleviate some of the anxiety being felt by patients."

Eastern Health is committed to patient disclosure in a timely manner. The process of communicating with patients and their physicians has commenced, and includes the following:

- The new reports are being transcribed and then validated by a radiologist
- Letters are being sent to the ordering physician and family physician with both the original and new report
- Patients will be contacted by Eastern Health staff to advise that their report has been reviewed and a letter has been sent to their physician
- Patients will also be followed up with a letter confirming that their report has been sent to their physician
- The patient's physician will review the new report and determine if further action is required

"Once a more detailed analysis is complete, Eastern Health will issue a public statement and provide further details," says Dr. Howell. "We will aim to provide this information to the general public as quickly as possible, but it will likely take two to three weeks."

It is important to note that mammograms and echo cardiograms (ultrasounds of the heart) are NOT included in this review. These exams, while performed at the Burin Peninsula Health Centre, were not reviewed by the radiologist in question. Bone Mineral Density reports are also not included in this review as they were deemed less urgent and will be reviewed at a later date.

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Media availability beginning at 2p.m. today