



Pathology Review Underway

Physicians and Patients being notified

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Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM) is conducting a review on pathology results from a recently recruited pathologist due to concerns identified early through DSM's internal quality assurance processes and through a routine audit required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM).

The routine audit required by CPSM included 20 cases and was expanded by DSM to 100 cases from April 2011. The results, received in early June, identified a potential issue with results from the pathologist, recruited recently from the United States.

During this same time period, DSM's internal processes identified concerns with the work of this pathologist, who has many years of experience in other jurisdictions. As such, in May 2011 DSM required that the pathologist's work be supervised by a senior pathologist. Following the results of the 100-case audit, the pathologist was removed from clinical duties June 3, out of an abundance of caution, while a larger audit was initiated to further review patient cases.

DSM has decided to undertake an audit of all cases from this pathologist, which includes approximately 3,000 cases since the pathologist started in October 2010.

The initial results from the full audit of work confirm some pathological discrepancies. No cases have yet been identified in which there has been a change in prognosis. One case has been found to potentially have clinical significance and follow up testing and assessment for that patient has been expedited.

Physicians are being contacted as soon as discrepancies are discovered and are being asked to advise their patients as soon as possible. Pathological discrepancies are not necessarily clinically significant and may not change a patient's treatment or prognosis.

The initial results from this full audit include 601 cases reviewed thus far and identify:

- 0 cases have identified a change in patient prognosis
- 1 case has been found to be potentially clinically significant, though additional assessment is underway. Clinical significance means an impact on patient treatment or care.
- 27 cases had a pathological discrepancy that resulted in an amended report to the patient's referring physician and do not yet appear to have impacted the prognosis or treatment
- 80 cases have been flagged for an additional review

As the full review is a significant undertaking, two highly reputable international laboratories are assisting in the review in order to further expedite the process. As this matter is being treated with urgency, it is anticipated that the full review will be completed in August. The next public update will be provided in approximately two weeks when additional results are available.

"Patient care remains paramount. A thorough review is being conducted as quickly as possible and DSM will continue to work with all appropriate care providers as the review proceeds," said Reg Toews, Acting Chief Executive Officer. "DSM is committed to being open and accountable and will continue to provide updates about the review as they become available."

DSM has established a dedicated patient phone line. Patients with questions or concerns about their tests results and whether the review affects them can call toll-free 1-866-633-1787.



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“DSM, has a comprehensive and effective pathologist quality assurance program in place and earlier this year our primary pathology laboratories were accredited for the first time by the College of American Pathologists,” said Dr. Amin Kabani, Chief Medical Officer. “All DSM pathologists participate in rigorous quality programs, regardless of their experience.”

DSM was created in 2002 as the not-for-profit corporation responsible for all of Manitoba’s public laboratory services and for rural diagnostic imaging services. There are approximately 10 million tests processed in DSM labs annually.

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Diagnostic Services of Manitoba’s vision is to provide a high-quality, state-of-the-art diagnostic system for Manitoba that is known for its excellent customer service and which is centrally managed, cost-effective and sustainable.