



Pathology Review Update

Review More Than Half Complete; Still No Changes in Patient Prognosis Identified

For Immediate Release: July 29, 2011

The review of pathology cases from a Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM) pathologist continues and further interim results are now available.

The review was prompted by 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 approximate 3,000-case review, representing all work of this pathologist while working in the province from October 2010 to June 2, 2011, is being conducted by two senior internal pathologists as well as two highly reputable international laboratories.

The updated interim results from this full audit include 1,545 cases reviewed thus far and identify:

- 0 cases have identified a change in patient prognosis
- 1 case, reported earlier, has been found to be potentially clinically significant and is receiving additional assessment and care. Clinical significance means an impact on patient treatment or care.
- 38 total 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
- 182 cases are receiving additional review as part of the audit

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 interim 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, reported two weeks ago in the initial pathology review update, has been found to potentially have clinical significance and follow up testing and assessment for that patient has been expedited.

The pathologist, a recent mid-career recruit from the United States who came to DSM in October 2010 with reputable references and work experience, remains on administrative leave since June 3, 2011.

"DSM remains committed to proceeding swiftly with this review and in being in close contact with physicians and patients regarding any possible change to original pathology reports," said Reg Toews, Acting Chief Executive Officer. "We are confident that the review will be completed by the end of August."

"The completed CPSM audit and the data thus far available from the retrospective review confirm that this is a pathologist-specific issue and not a systemic issue," said Dr. Amin Kabani, Chief Medical Officer. "With more than half the cases already reviewed, we remain hopeful that this review will not result in a change to any patient's prognosis, but remain ready to expedite any further testing or care that may be required."

Patients with questions or concerns about their tests results and whether the review affects them can call toll-free 1-866-633-1787. As of today, DSM has received 64 patient calls so far. Only one caller had their case read by the pathologist whose cases are under review.

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 14.5 million tests processed in DSM labs annually.

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.



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