



Pathology Review Update

Review Nearly Complete

For Immediate Release: September 6, 2011

The review of pathology cases from a Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM) pathologist continues and further interim results are now available. The pathology review will be completed within the next two weeks, however changes in patient prognosis and clinical management will not likely be known until the end of the month.

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 2,981 cases reviewed thus far and identify:

- 0 cases have identified a change in patient prognosis.
- 30 cases, have been found to be potentially clinically significant (an impact on patient treatment or care); these cases are being reviewed by a multidisciplinary review committee led by CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB). In the majority of these cases the change in the pathology report does not appear to have impacted patient management and it is anticipated that the majority of patients will have a positive outcome.
- 127 total cases had a pathological discrepancy that resulted in an amended report to the patient's referring physician.
- 47 cases require 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 completed CPSM audit and the retrospective review data confirm that this is a pathologist-specific issue and not a systemic issue. The pathologist, a recent mid-career recruit from the United States who came to DSM in October 2010 with reputable references and work experience, entered administrative leave June 3, 2011. DSM has entered into an Agreement with the pathologist, who has resigned for personal reasons and is no longer in the employ of DSM. The terms of this Agreement are confidential and cannot be disclosed beyond the statement of fact that the Agreement exists.

"We regret the anxiety that has been felt by patients and especially for those whose care and treatment will be impacted," said Dr. Amin Kabani, DSM Chief Medical Officer. "We remain hopeful that these issues were identified early enough to not result in a change in patient prognosis. The course of care has been expedited for all patients requiring additional testing and assessment."

Patients with questions or concerns about their tests results and whether the review affects them can call toll-free 1-866-633-1787. To date DSM has received 70 patient calls. Five callers had their case read by the pathologist whose cases are under review.

DSM will issue the next update upon completion of the review of patient cases, which is anticipated in approximately two weeks.

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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