

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, November 18, 2009



For release at 11:00 am

Radiology Review Update

Over 47,646 radiology exams have been sent by the Sunrise Health Region to be re-read. As of November 13, 2009 reports have been received on 39,711 exams with difference of interpretation noted in 6,750 exams (16.99%). Of these 5,804 (14.62%) were substantially correct with minor discordances and 946 were considered to have the potential to affect patient care (2.38%). The health region is forwarding the new radiology reports to the family physicians and notifying patients, even when there is no change in interpretation. As a courtesy, the statistics about differences of interpretation have been provided to the College of Physicians and Surgeons and to Dr. Tsatsi.

“The review in Sunrise Health Region is for the purposes of the patients and their physicians,” says Chief Executive Officer, Joe Kirwan. “This data provides assurance that they have accurate radiology interpretations for care decisions.”

The review was ordered in May 2009, when the College of Physicians and Surgeons notified Sunrise Health Region and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health of concerns about the work of Dr. L. Darius Tsatsi, a radiologist licensed with the College. Dr. Tsatsi worked in Sunrise Health Region from the fall of 2004 until May, 2009, when he voluntarily suspended his practice.

The review has been conducted in reverse chronological order and the reports that have been returned are for radiology work in 2009, 2008 and 2007. Patients who have exams that are part of the review will receive answers about all of their exams at one time since the radiology technicians compile a package to send which includes any exams previously read by Dr. Tsatsi for each patient back to 2004.

The exams still to be read are for patients from 2006, 2005 and 2004 who had no exams in 2009, 2008 or 2007. The sending and retrieval of exams and the notifications process is manual and labour intensive work.

“The patients generally seem to understand the difficulty of this task,” says Kirwan, “but I am sorry that we cannot get answers back to them quicker. There are a large number of exams with no difference of interpretation and that may help ease the worry of those still awaiting results.”

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