

ProtectTexas™

Texas Department of Health

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TO: Independent Clinical Pathology Laboratories

FROM: Nancy S. Weiss, Ph.D.
Director, Texas Cancer Registry

SUBJECT: Update on Implementation of Clinical Pathology Laboratory Reporting -
Electronic Pathology Laboratory Reporting Pilot Project

DATE: June 1, 2004

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) continues to work on developing electronic clinical pathology laboratory reporting and health care practitioner reporting required by state law and rules (Health and Safety Code, Chapter 82; Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 91, Subchapter A). The goal, when fully implemented, is to obtain data from independent clinical pathology laboratories to identify unreported cancer cases and then follow back to physician offices or health care facilities to request reporting of this missing information. This enhancement will help assure more complete, timely and accurate statewide cancer incidence data for reducing the burden of cancer on Texans.

The first phase of implementation involves the Electronic Pathology Laboratory Reporting Pilot Project that is currently underway. Pilot testing is scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2004. Once testing is complete the TCR will begin moving into the next phase of securing electronic reporting from independent clinical pathology laboratories statewide. Please remain assured that the TCR will not begin implementation without additional communications, specific guidelines and sufficient advance notification.

Until such time as electronic pathology laboratory reporting is implemented, independent laboratories should continue to report as they have been doing. The TCR will post information on progress of the Electronic Pathology Laboratory Reporting Pilot Project at our Website - www.tdh.state.tx.us/tcr/rules.html. We encourage you to check our Website periodically and stay informed of latest developments towards implementation.

We thank you in advance for your efforts in support of Texas cancer surveillance activities. For questions and additional information, please contact John L. Hopkins, Program Specialist, by direct phone at 512-458-7111 ext. 3608, toll free at 1-800-252-8059, or by email at John.Hopkins@tdh.state.tx.us.