



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

August 18, 2022

by-email

Hon. Tom Osborne
Minister of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Mr. Ken Baird
CEO
Eastern Health

Ms. Michelle House
CEO
Western Health

Ms. Andree Robichaud
CEO
Central Health

Ms. Heather Brown
CEO
Labrador-Grenfell Health

The NLMA is requesting that the RHAs discontinue the issuing of paper results for diagnostic imaging and other clinical documentation to physicians who are using Med Access, with the exception of those results that are not available in HEALTHe NL.

The rollout of eDOCSNL has been very successful and well received by physicians. The integration of HEALTHe NL with Med Access has been a great selling point for the EMR program both from the immediate availability of this information and the promise of no longer receiving paper results.

Unfortunately, there is still a large and costly duplication of results that go in paper format to physicians who also receive them through EMR. This situation is an unnecessary administrative burden on physicians, as there is an obligation that they check through all these duplicate communications, and it is costly for the RHAs. By continuing to receive unnecessary paper results there is also a higher risk that physicians may miss the results that are not included in HEALTHe NL, such as genetic testing.

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*Representing and supporting a united medical profession and providing leadership
in the provision of excellent health care in Newfoundland and Labrador*

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The NLMA is now requesting that the RHAs take the final step and stop delivering paper results for diagnostic imaging and other clinical documentation. Once this is completed, physicians will have almost 100% of results and clinical documentation within their EMR when they are identified as one of the patient's providers.

If the RHAs concentrate on ensuring all results are included in HEALTHe NL, contacting physicians directly with critical results, and communicating to physicians that all results are in HEALTHe NL we will have achieved one of the key goals of the EMR system.

The NLMA looks forward to your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Luscombe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Luscombe, MD, FRCPC
President

