

September 4, 2009

Dear Doctor,

You may have previously received communication regarding our plan to offer universal testing of invasive colon cancers via standard immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing techniques for the identification Lynch syndrome. We are pleased to report that on August 25, 2009 the Norton Healthcare System Medical Executive Committee granted final approval for this initiative. IHC screening for Lynch syndrome will be performed on all colorectal cancer resection specimens examined in a Norton Healthcare facility beginning October 1, 2009.

As you may know, up to 3% of colon cancers are due to an inherited susceptibility associated with Lynch Syndrome, also known as Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colorectal Carcinoma Syndrome (HNPCC). Individuals with Lynch syndrome have up to an 80% lifetime risk for colon cancer, a 40-50% risk for a second colon cancer, a 60% lifetime risk for uterine cancer, and increased risks for other cancers including ovarian, small bowel, stomach, and urinary tract tumors. Although not common, identification of Lynch syndrome allows for optimal treatment decision making, and may include alterations in surgical management or surveillance. In addition, detection of Lynch Syndrome represents a significant opportunity for intervention for the patient's family members. For your reference, a fact sheet with frequently asked questions about Lynch syndrome and IHC screening and information on interpreting IHC test results is enclosed with this letter.

Starting October 1, 2009 results of IHC screening for Lynch syndrome will be provided on the pathology report. Given the importance of comprehensive counseling for these patients, direct notification of IHC test results will be sent to the Genetic Counseling Services at the Norton Cancer Institute for their review. If an abnormality is identified, a genetic counselor will contact you to establish a plan for notification of the patient, follow-up genetic counseling and testing.

We are excited to begin implementation of this important service at Norton Healthcare. Please contact the Norton Cancer Institute's Genetic Counseling Service with any questions at (502)629-4363.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Brooks, MD, MBA  
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