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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More Testing Required in Labrador Hospital Sterilization Case

Acting on medical advice, lawyers for women affected by the use of improperly sterilized instruments at gynecology clinics at Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital in Labrador City have warned the women that they may need to be re-tested for infection. The sterilization breakdown occurred at the gynecology clinics between October 2001 and March 2003. 333 women were affected, according to hospital authorities.

“At a public meeting we held in early December, a majority of the 160 women present indicated that they had not been told how to properly do their urine test”, said Brenda Rideout, representative plaintiff for a class action taken on behalf of the affected women.

The Newfoundland Public Health Laboratory C. Trachomatis (Chlamydia) and N. Gonorrhoeae Urine Specimens instructions state:

“Collect 10 to 50 mL first catch urine (the first part of the stream) into a sterile, dry polypropylene container without preservatives.”

“Our lawyers have received medical advice that the potential for false negative results from midstream urine samples, which many women may have given, would indicate the need for re-testing” added Ms. Rideout.

Anyone who did not do the test in accordance with these sample guidelines should contact her family doctor or other healthcare provider to decide whether she should be re-tested.

“Our lawyers pointed out the re-testing issue to the hospital authorities in early December, and asked them to contact the women by telephone and make sure the testing had been done right” added Ms. Rideout, “but they have refused.”

The application for class certification and supporting papers were filed in court today. The class action is against Health Labrador Corporation.

For further information contact:

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