

Globe and Mail Letter to the Editor

January 3, 2012

Re: What we should learn from our pathology problems - article by Andre Picard

The column "What we should learn from our pathology problems" correctly identifies the need to continue to improve lab services across the country. We applaud Mr. Picard for keeping this issue in the public eye. However, patients need to be reassured that Ontario's laboratory medicine physicians are well qualified, experienced professionals providing an excellent service in an increasingly complex system.

Over the past few years, Ontario's laboratory medicine physicians established a number of safeguards to protect patients including the creation of "Path2Quality", a joint initiative between the Ontario Medical Association's Section on Laboratory Medicine and the Ontario Association of Pathologists. Last year, with input from provincial, national and international physicians, Path2Quality produced the best practice guidelines document *Standards2Quality* which is available to all Ontario pathologists and was shared nationally with Canadian colleagues at the June 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pathologists. Ontario pathologists also work closely with Cancer Care Ontario and other provincial organizations in quality processes.

This includes Ontario's Quality Management Program – Laboratory Services (QMP-LS), which is actively engaged in accrediting and monitoring laboratory services in the province in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards.

Ontario's pathologists are committed to building upon these foundations to enhance the systems and processes that support their work and promote patient safety for Ontarians.

Sincerely,

For Path2Quality,



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