

Government of
Northwest Territories

January 29, 2025

KIERON TESTART
MLA, RANGE LAKE**Oral Question 375-20(1): Updates to Diagnostic Imaging Medical Communications System**

In follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on October 29, 2024, regarding the current diagnostic imaging medical communications system, the following is provided.

The contract between the three health and social services authorities and Beam Radiology is for the remote reading of the diagnostic images that are transferred electronically from NWT health facilities where the images are taken to the teleradiology service located in Calgary. The Remote Radiology Service contract was awarded to Beam Radiology, following the RFP process. The service includes remote radiology reading and reporting only, not Diagnostic Imaging Services (the taking of the images).

When and if an NWT client has a diagnostic image performed in the NWT a copy of the image is transmitted electronically to the Teleradiology provider, Beam Radiology, for interpretation. The report is returned electronically to the NWT. These images and reports are filed as part of the NWT clients NWT medical record.

If an NWT client is sent to Alberta for care that includes medical imaging, these images are read and reported by the radiologist employed by the care location. A copy of the report and a CD of the images are returned to the NWT ordering provider. These images and reports are not returned to NWT Diagnostic Imaging Services or Beam Radiology. These reports are not automatically included in the patient's EMR unless specifically requested by the NWT provider to have the files attached to the patient's EMR. This is a manual process that is completed by clinic or health centre staff and is known as 'scanning and linking'.

The NWT health and social services system does not have full time Radiologist staff to provide the subject matter expertise in this area. The contract with Beam Radiology does not include the authority to make referrals for clients. Having the provider of this contract located in Calgary rather than Edmonton does not impact the process of reviewing images and providing readings to the NWT practitioners.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Les Semmler".

Les Semmler
Minister, Health and Social Services

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Director, Legislative Affairs and House Planning