



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01454

Name of petitioner

Natalie Robb

Petition title

Hyperemesis specialist nurses

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to consider placing hyperemesis specialist nurses in hospitals throughout Scotland to provide medical and emotional support to the thousands of pregnant women suffering from this condition.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

A letter was written to NHS Scotland directors, over a year ago which has never been responded too. The letter was to make the directors aware of the lack of support and healthcare for those suffering from this condition. It included facts and figures showing the desperate need for these specialists. The letter also had suggestions of how this help could be delivered in the most cost effective way i.e. midwives/nurses holding support groups.

As I feel this is a national issue rather than regional, I did not approach my local MSP and instead followed the line of contacting the NHS before deciding to create this petition.

Since I suffered from hyperemesis myself, I have set up a blogspot, website and facebook group providing support and a place for women and their families to discuss the condition. In 2 1/2 years, my blog has been viewed by 11500 people and my facebook page has over 80 members, from all over the world, regularly asking for and giving advice. My website has been created for both sufferers and carers to provide a simple and clear outline of what to expect from the condition.

Petition background information

The British Medical Journal states that, 2 in 100 pregnant women in the UK suffer from Hyperemesis Gravidarum (HG) which is excessive sickness. This is an extremely severe illness resulting in many health problems for the mother including dehydration, renal failure, malnutrition, blood clotting problems, depression and on some occasions can result in death. Infants born to women with HG can often be born prematurely and at a very low birth weight.

Thousands of women, like myself, are desperate for help and support during and after this illness. The lack of knowledge within the medical profession regarding this condition can lead women to seek termination instead of suffering from this. A

specialist doctor, nurse or midwife would be able to provide medical and emotional support by providing the correct information, holding counselling sessions and support groups. Even one specialist for the whole of Scotland would be a huge improvement to what is available at present.

NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) states that they are "a reliable source of evidence-based information and practical 'know how' about the common conditions managed in primary care". However, there is no hyperemesis information available, only nausea and vomiting in pregnancy which does not extend to hyperemesis. It gives inadequate advice for doctors to refer to. As far as I am aware there is no further information available, this extends so far as simple information leaflets not being available at routine midwife appointments.

In 2007, The Royal London Hospital set up a day unit for women suffering from hyperemesis. According to www.staffnurse.com, this has driven down A&E attendances and allows women to be given intravenous fluids and anti-emetics and return home after a few hours. This is the only clinic in the UK available for outpatient care and preventative treatment. Care like this is much needed in Scotland where no specialist advice is available.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/hyperemesis>

Related information for petition

My story - <http://natalie-livingwithhyperemesis.blogspot.co.uk/>

My website - <http://www.livingwithhyperemesis.co.uk/>

My facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/147875378679190/>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

03 / 12 / 2012

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Hyperemesis is a form of extreme sickness during pregnancy and affects 2 in 100 pregnant women. After suffering for hyperemesis myself and receiving no professional help or support from anyone, I think it extremely important that this support is put in place for other women who also have this illness. A specialist healthcare worker can provide this much needed medical and psychological care and support for those thousands of women who require it.

