

Mr John Pentland
The Convenor of the Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

25 May 2015

Dear Mr Pentland

Re: Petition PE01566: A National Service Delivery Model for Warfarin Patients

We would like the Committee to note our support for public petition PE01566, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to mandate A National Service Delivery Model for Warfarin Patients and to adequately resource the service throughout Scotland.

The AntiCoagulation Self-Monitoring Alliance (ACSMA) very much supports the petition's request to ensure that all NHS boards have the resources to assess warfarin patients who request self-testing and/or self-management of their condition.

ACSMA was founded in October 2012 with the primary aim to ensure that INR self-monitoring technology is available on NHS prescription and accessible to all eligible patients throughout the UK. ACSMA comprises three of the leading heart charities – AntiCoagulation Europe, AF (Atrial Fibrillation) Association and the Mechanical Heart Valve Support Group. Healthcare and diagnostics company Roche is also part of the alliance.

There is a wealth of data and evidence to demonstrate that self-management of blood clotting levels for people on long-term warfarin treatment can reduce the risk of stroke by over 50% and mortality by nearly 40%¹ and can be cost-effective for the NHS². However, appropriate training and a relevant infrastructure need to be provided thus allowing clinicians to feel confident and able to provide a patient-centred approach to assess requests for self testing or self management from suitable patients and to those who do.

Yours sincerely,

Eve Knight
Chief Executive and Co-founder
AntiCoagulation Europe

Trudie Lobban MBE FRCP (Edin)
Founder & Chief Executive
AF Association

Founder Members of the Anti-Coagulation Self-Monitoring Alliance

Copy to: Mrs Mary Hemphill – Petitioner, by email
Anne Peat, Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee by email petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

¹ Gardiner C et al. Patient self-testing is a reliable and acceptable alternative to laboratory INR monitoring. British Journal of Haematology. 2004.

² National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. NICE diagnostics guidance DG14. Atrial fibrillation and heart valve disease: self-monitoring coagulation status using point-of-care coagulometers (the CoaguChek XS system and the INRatio2 PT/INR monitor).
<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg14>