

## NHS Borders

Chair & Chief Executive's Office

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Ms Sigrid Robinson  
Assistant Clerk  
Public Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH EH99 1SP

Date 14 July 2015  
Your Ref  
Our Ref JD/CG/ Warfarin\_240615

Dear Sigrid

### Consideration of Petition PE1566

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to consider the above petition regarding warfarin patients who request self-testing and/or self management of their condition. Please find below NHS Borders' comments:

- i. NHS Borders has a Point Of Care Testing policy which specifically excludes home testing as part of its remit. Therefore, there is no formal Borders protocol available for any home monitoring service (including glucose monitoring; although the diabetes specialist nurses do work in assisting patients in starting home monitoring). We do not have a clinical service comparable to that of the Diabetes Service that offers a service delivery model.
- ii. There are no training programmes available in the Borders to train NHS staff to assist in the education of home testing, monitoring and self management for warfarin patients.
- iii. There are concerns about the quality control and maintenance of home testing devices that would have to be addressed were this to become common. However, many patients are now moving onto oral anticoagulants that do not require monitoring so we will be moving away from INR monitoring as these take the place of warfarin in future. Self evidently there can be no promotion of something that we do not have a system for.
- iv. NHS Borders do not have formal paediatric/adult transitional arrangements in place other than in those cases that it is needed when there will be consultant to consultant liaison.
- v. NHS Borders had 1853 patients who received warfarin during the period February – April 2015 via Community Pharmacies. We are unable to identify how many of these patients self-test or monitor. It should be noted that many of our GP practices offer local site testing and management schemes within the practices.

I hope the above response is satisfactory for your Committee's needs. Should you require any further comment please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Sheena MacDonald  
Medical Director