

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

Date 27 August 2015

Our Ref: 981/TG

Dear Ms Robinson

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1566

I write in response to your letter dated 24 June 2015 and give below NHS Forth Valley's responses.

- (i) *Does your NHS Board have a protocol, e.g. a service delivery model or similar policy, on self-testing and self-management for warfarin patients?*

The Board supports self management through individual education for all patients on warfarin linked with prioritising this work through the Scottish Patient Safety Programme in Primary Care.

While self testing is supported on an individual basis based on patient preference this it is not advocated as a first line option for all patients partly in recognition of issues regarding ongoing maintenance of individual self testing equipment.

There are standardised education and patient information leaflets that are widely available and have been promoted throughout primary care.

- (ii) *What guidance and training does your NHS Board provide to its NHS staff on self-testing and self-management for warfarin patients and is its implementation monitored?*

As (i) above.

- (iii) *What is your NHS Board doing to promote self-testing and self-management amongst its warfarin patients? If it does not promote self-testing and self-management, please explain the reasoning behind this decision.*

As (i) above

Chairman: Alex Linkston CBE
Chief Executive: Jane Grant

Forth Valley NHS Board is the common name for Forth Valley Health Board
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- (iv) *What protocol, guidance or measures are in place in paediatric hospitals or paediatric care facilities in your area to provide support for warfarin patients who move from paediatric to adult services? Is there any oversight of this process, especially in circumstances where an individual is moving between different NHS Board areas, and what training or guidance is provided to staff on this issue?*

There is clear protocol in place at Yorkhill if a cardiac patient was put on warfarin. Usually done at Yorkhill. The Cardiac Liaison Nurse gives teaching and training to the parents and hands a record book for monitoring warfarin. The parents usually check with Irene Gibson Senior Haematology nurse for adjustment the dosage of warfarin from the coagulation side. No further involvement from Cardiologists on adjustment of the dosage. The care of patients on transition, usually discussed at teenage clinic at Yorkhill and usually the medication including warfarin discussed by Cardiac Liaison Nurses at these settings who organise the transition.

- (v) *How many warfarin patients are there within your authority and, of those, how many self-test and/or self-monitor?*

Not known exactly but the LES for warfarin testing is in place for July 2015 for 3050 patients, with 19 patients initiated in July.

Yours sincerely

Jane Grant
Chief Executive