

PE1566/AA

Petitioner Letter of 2 February 2016

PEO1566: National Service Delivery Model for Warfarin Patients

Dear Mr McMahon,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on the reply from the Scottish Government dated 22nd December 2015.

Whilst I would be more than happy to assist in a review of the adopted framework and the efficacy of the Standard Operating Procedures for patients who wish to self test and for the cohort of patients with long term conditions who are prescribed warfarin by Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, it remains imperative that we continue to focus on the key objective of the petition which has not been fulfilled.

The key objective is to ensure that there is a safe, effective and equitable National Service Delivery Model of care delivered and sustained across all 14 Scottish Health Boards and, furthermore, that there is a transition care pathway to support patients with long term conditions who have been prescribed warfarin and who are taught to self test at the children's hospital.

It is also important to point out that we have not received any response from **NHS Tayside** and **NHS Ayrshire & Arran**, therefore we do not have a full picture of the delivery of care nor the full structure across Scotland.

I attach a brief with the results of the 12 Health Boards who did reply which summarises their responses and notes my concerns regarding their answers to the committee's questions.

Kindest Regards,

Mary Hemphill

Briefing for: Petitions Committee: PEO1566 - A National Service Delivery Model for Warfarin Patients.

Background

Following the presentation of *PEO1566: A National Service Delivery Model for Warfarin Patients* to the Public Petitions Committee, Scotland's 14 health boards were asked to detail:

- their protocols on self-management/self-testing for warfarin patients
- guidance for staff on self-management/self-testing
- activities to promote self-management/self-testing amongst patients
- protocols for transition of patients from paediatric to adult care
- the number of warfarin patients in their authority and the number of those who self-manage/self-monitor

Responses

- 209 people are confirmed to be self-monitoring out of an estimated 55,498 warfarin patients in Scotland – **just 0.37%**¹.
- Just two health boards – **NHS Fife and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde** – have any kind of formal protocols for patients wanting to self-manage.
- **Three health boards** – NHS Grampian, NHS Borders and NHS Lothian – were unable to identify how many patients were self-testing in their authority.
- The health board with the highest proportion of warfarin patients self-testing was NHS Fife – even here however only **60 out of 4,721 patients (1.2%)** received their own test strips.
- In NHS Lanarkshire, where there are 8,574 patients registered with the anticoagulant service, **just 3 patients (0.03%)** were confirmed to be self-testing having transferred from paediatric care.
- The majority of health boards **do not have formal protocols** in place for the transition of children on warfarin into adult anticoagulation services.

*“NHSG does not promote self-testing. We consider that with current evidence it is best to **restrict** the use to the small number of patients who will clearly benefit, those who travel a lot and are not suitable for newer anticoagulant therapies.” – **NHS Grampian***

*“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 [...] We do not have a clinical service comparable to*

¹ Figure based on responses from twelve health boards. Two boards did not reply – NHS Tayside and NHS Ayrshire & Arran

*that of the Diabetes Service that offers a service delivery model. 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.” – **NHS Borders***

*“NHS Lanarkshire **does not have** a specific training programme or guidance to NHS staff regarding self-testing and self-management for warfarin patients.” – **NHS Lanarkshire***

*“We are not aware of any children locally who are on warfarin at present. Children on this therapy in this Board are very few [...] We do not have a specialist service or pre-determined pathways for transition.” - **NHS Dumfries & Galloway***

Conclusions

The responses of the NHS boards highlighted:

- a lack of consistency across health boards in their approach to self-testing
- no strong protocols for warfarin patients transitioning from paediatric to adult services in Scotland outside of Glasgow
- little to no awareness of self-testing and its benefits amongst NHS boards and GP services with no signs that training and awareness is in place to improve this

WARFARIN SELF-TESTING IN SCOTLAND



SUMMARY OF NHS RESPONSES

0.37%

The percentage of people self-testing in Scotland...



...that's just 209 people out of 55,498 warfarin patients.

10/12

NHS boards do not have protocols for patients to self-monitor

4/12

NHS boards could not say how many patients were self-testing

60 / 4,721

NHS Fife has the highest percentage of people self-testing

But that's still only 1.2%

3 / 8,574

NHS Lanarkshire has the lowest percentage of people self-testing

That's just 0.03% of patients

That's why we're calling for:

a **National Service Delivery Model** to ensure that all NHS boards can assess warfarin patients who request to self-test their condition.