

Eglinton House
Ailsa Hospital
Dalmellington Road
AYR
KA6 6AB



Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk
to The Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
T3.40
EH99 1SP

Date 9 January 2013
Your Ref PE1488
Our Ref FMcQ/CF

Enquiries to Christine Fleming
Extension 13674
Direct line 01292 513674

E-mail Christine.fleming@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk

Sent by e-mail

Dear Mr Howlett

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2012. I offer the following response to the questions raised in the Petition, which I hope is helpful information for the Committee.

1. What advice, guidance and treatment do you currently provide to organ transplant patients, before and after the transplant operation, in relation to cancer risks associated with the long term use of immune-suppressant medications?

NHS Ayrshire and Arran strives to ensure that all potential transplant patients receive detailed information on the risks and benefits of transplantation as part of the process of gaining informed consent. This includes:

- Risks associated with the transplant procedure;
- Risks associated with the donor organ affecting its function in the short and long term;
- Risk of donor transmissible infection (including cytomegalovirus);
- Risk of immunosuppressant, including drug side effects, increased incidence of infection and cancer;
- Risks associated with transplantation in general.

Locally, members of the multi-disciplinary team work in partnership with the regional transplant centre clinicians and NHSBT, to ensure individual circumstances and risks are assessed, and that the patient is fully informed of the post transplant considerations, follow up care and treatment. This includes the effects of immuno suppressants, and the adverse effects of solar exposure.

Whilst there is currently no NHS Scotland guidance, clinicians are guided by professional guidelines, including NICE and Renal Association Guidance. Individual patients receive advice and ongoing surveillance as an integral part of their post transplant care. All NHS Ayrshire and Arran transplant patients receive at least



annual skin assessment as part of their transplant assessment clinic appointments, which are delivered by the regional service in Glasgow.

2. Do you have any other views on what the petition seeks?

In addition to point 1 above, I have asked the Board Organ Donation Committee to review the organisational position (including the current level of clinician awareness), with a view to bringing any recommendations to the Corporate Management Team.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McQueen (Mrs)
Executive Nurse Director