

Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions
Committee
Via email
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Date 25 January 2013
Your Ref
Our Ref BM/CD/PE1448

Enquiries to Miss C Dziech
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Dear Mr Howlett

NHS FIFE RESPONSE TO PETITION PE1448

With regards to the questions posed:

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?

The majority of advice, guidance and treatment in relation to cancer risks is provided by the organ donation centres. The only large group of transplant patients within NHS Fife being followed up on a regular basis by NHS Fife doctors are those patients who have received a renal transplant.

The potential risks of developing cancer are highlighted as is the need to look out for warning signs such as the development of skin lesions.

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

It should be appreciated the benefits of organ transplantation, far outweigh the combined risks of transplantation. Developing cancer is only one complication and is less significant than organ rejection or immunosuppression induced sepsis.

I trust this response provides you with the information you are seeking.

Yours sincerely

DR BRIAN MONTGOMERY
Medical Director NHS Fife

