

PE1448/P

Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Directorate

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Mr David Stewart MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



26 March 2013

Dear David

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1448: IMPROVING AWARENESS OF THE CANCER RISKS IN ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Thank you for your clerk's letter of 1st March 2013 requesting an update on the above mentioned petition, following the meeting of the Scottish Transplant Group (STG) held on 20th March 2013.

You will recall that at the December 2012 meeting of the STG the patient representatives were asked to review the written information provided at each of the 3 Scottish transplant units and report their findings at the March 2013 meeting. They duly reviewed the information provided to patients and reported that the cancer risks were highlighted in the various information leaflets/booklets but commented that the quality of the information provided varied.

The Group discussed the matter in some detail and made the following recommendations:

- All transplant units should issue the British Association of Dermatologists patient information leaflet "*Information about skin cancer for patients with an organ transplant*" to all transplant patients prior to discharge from hospital;
- Advice on skin care should be reinforced as part of the annual review and in addition a skin check should be undertaken by an appropriately trained member of staff;
- Each transplant unit should introduce a system of fast-tracking referrals to a dermatologist should a lesion be identified.

The British Association of Dermatologists patient information leaflet can be viewed at the following link;

[http://www.bad.org.uk/Portals/Bad/Patient%20Information%20Leaflets%20\(PILs\)/Skin%20cancer%20%20information%20for%20patients%20with%20an%20organ%20transplant%20update%20Nov%202010%20-%20Lay%20review%20April%202011.pdf](http://www.bad.org.uk/Portals/Bad/Patient%20Information%20Leaflets%20(PILs)/Skin%20cancer%20%20information%20for%20patients%20with%20an%20organ%20transplant%20update%20Nov%202010%20-%20Lay%20review%20April%202011.pdf)

Professor John Forsythe, the Scottish Government's Lead Clinician for Organ Donation and Transplantation, and Chair of the STG will write to the lead for each Transplant Unit to highlight this issue and to make them aware of the discussion and the subsequent recommendations.

Yours sincerely

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