

Julie Wood,
NHSCC,
50 Broadway,
London,
SW1H 0DB
6th April 2017

Cc: Lauren Hughes, NHS England

Dear Julie,

Reviewing prescription items

Thank you for our recent telephone conversation in which you briefed National Voices in advance about the announcement of proposals to review and restrict the prescription of 'no value' and 'low value' items.

The subsequent announcement and media coverage strongly suggested that all of the items cited would be 'banned', and that the maximum amount of funding would correspondingly be saved. I appreciate that this coverage was not within your control, but in light of it, and bearing in mind the interests of National Voices members, I would like to restate some of the key points of our conversation.

In general, the tone of the conversation was that the announcement was a first step, prior to more detailed consideration of the four categories of prescription item cited in your letter to us. You reassured us that, although there may be some 'no value' items that could be stopped completely, in relation to most items you were committed to a careful review that would take into full consideration the potential impact on patients.

For its part, National Voices affirmed that we have no interest in supporting the continued prescription of ineffective or 'no value' treatments. We noted that, as a membership coalition, we could not, in the first phone call, second-guess or anticipate how our member charities, working with patients who would potentially be affected by the review, might respond.

We therefore took the position that we would not respond to the initial announcement and media coverage, but would await further developments in the review.

We noted that in order to consult our members properly, we would need to have more detail on the review, including a list of the items that would fall under consideration. We could then consult our members generally, and potentially play a brokering role in helping to bring their views and evidence into the discussions. We

understood from the conversation that NHS Clinical Commissioners would be positively interested in working with us in this way.

I hope that this represents an accurate note of what we covered. If we are able to work constructively together to progress some of the detail of this review it will be greatly appreciated by our member charities and those with whom they work.

I am copying this letter to Lauren Hughes at NHS England so that she, too, will be able to understand our approach.

Once again, thank you for the initial briefing and we look forward to hearing from you further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Redding', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Don Redding

Director of Policy