

Scottish Government submission of 13 February 2024

PE2081/A: Make chronic kidney disease a key clinical priority

Thank you for your email of 31 January regarding Petition PE2081 – ‘Make chronic kidney disease a key clinical priority’, created by Professor Jeremy Hughes on behalf of Kidney Research UK in Scotland.

I know that both the former Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, Michael Matheson, and the Minister for Public Health and Women’s Health have previously written to Kidney Research UK explaining that the Scottish Government does not intend to increase the number of health strategies for individual conditions at this time. Rather, we are focussed on how best to support NHS boards to deliver high quality, value-based, person-centred care for everyone, irrespective of condition. Our approach to clinical conditions policy is something that we keep under regular review, and we are grateful to Kidney Research UK for sharing their views.

The Scottish Government continues to support people with kidney disease. We recently launched a national policy on the reimbursement of electricity costs for home dialysis for patients, to protect kidney dialysis patients from the impact of the cost of living crisis. The Minister for Public Health and Women’s Health appeared at a roundtable at the Scottish Parliament on 1 February to mark the launch of the policy and to hear from kidney patients directly about the impact of the cost of living crisis on them.

The policy was developed with input from Kidney Care UK, renal nurses and technicians who install dialysis equipment. It asks NHS boards to proactively identify patients receiving home haemodialysis, automated peritoneal dialysis and continuous automated peritoneal dialysis, and ensure they are reimbursed according to a set formula for the additional electricity costs of running their dialysis equipment. This policy will ensure that people who choose home dialysis will be reimbursed for their electricity costs, no matter where in Scotland they live. NHS boards will implement the policy and the Scottish Government will review it in 6-12 months to ensure it is providing the support intended.

We want all people living with long-term conditions to access the best possible care and support to enable them to live longer in better health. We will continue to work with stakeholders, people with lived experience, academic experts, and clinicians to achieve improvements.

I hope this information is helpful.

Healthcare Quality and Improvement Division: Clinical Priorities