

## **P-04-490 Antiretroviral Medication in Cardiff – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 08.11.2013**

I am appalled by the response of the Health Minister! Stating a saving of 15-50 million for Wales is totally inaccurate. The 28 prescription guidelines was implemented to reduce waste but was NEVER intended for HIV patients. I am amazed about the sheer blindness of this. Somebody, god knows who, implemented the 28 days cycle for HIV patients in Wales. Something hospitals in London never heard of!!!!

The Welsh Health Minister underestimates guidelines in hospital. As a former Radiographer myself I would get into trouble if I work against guidelines, justifying myself for managers and the health board.

I can assure the Health Minister with absolute certainty that no clinician with sound mind would voluntarily act against given guidelines. That is because of the justification that has to follow in front of managers and health boards. Something no staff member is keen on doing!

Is the Welsh Government saving 15 Million or 50 Million? Maybe somebody can explain those numbers?

I wish to stress that the 28 guidelines are intended for GP mainly. Also I wish to stress that hardly there are HIV patients where the prescription has to be changed suddenly! The consultant will get a feeling for that very well in advance and this takes time. Never ever is a HIV patient required to suddenly change medication. If a HIV patient is believed to change medication then that will be implemented over time, NEVER suddenly.

I am appalled about the lies in order to justify the 28 days prescription rule for HIV medications in Wales. I wonder if the Health Minister can point out one single hospital in England doing that as well. There is not any.

I therefore urge the Welsh Government to admit a wrong approach with this and come back to the normality.

I will not come back for treatment in Cardiff until this mess is sorted out. I cannot come to the hospital pharmacy with such restricted opening times and I cannot opt for home delivery. Its not working for me.

I rather travel to London twice a year to get my medication.

kind regards  
Joerg Thieme