

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN ENGLAND

Copy being sent to member organisations in Scotland, Wales & Ireland for information only

## Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to Primary Care

### Background

Since October 2005, the Department of Health has been reviewing the provision of stoma and incontinence products through a series of consultations and we have kept you advised of the proposals and our responses.

The latest consultation, with revised proposals, was published on 6 September. **It is important to note that this consultation relates only to those living in England.** A copy and related papers can be found on the Department's website at: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_078135](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_078135)

The Department advises that the current arrangements for items and related services in this section of the Drug Tariff (Part IX) have remained largely unchanged for 20 years, and they felt that a review was required to ensure that both the NHS and the patients it looks after were receiving best value and agreed standards of care.

As part of the process, the Department has met with patient groups and representatives from the NHS, including stoma care nurses, in order to clarify their objectives and the actual proposals set out in the consultation. They have assured us that they are listening and that all responses will be most carefully considered.

The initial published objectives of the consultation were listed as:

- Maintain, and where applicable improve, the current quality of care to patients
- Secure value for money for the NHS
- Ensure equitable payment for equivalent services and transparent reimbursement pricing
- Work in partnership to deliver fair prices for the NHS and reasonable returns for suppliers and contractors
- Facilitate the introduction of innovative solutions
- Maintain local choice in the provision of services
- Keep administration arrangements to the necessary minimum

In these revised proposals to the consultation, the key objectives have been reduced and are listed as:

- To maintain and where applicable improve, the current quality of care to patients and provide a consistent level of care
- To ensure equitable payment for equivalent services
- To achieve clear transparency between what is paid for services and what is reimbursed for items
- To secure value for money for the NHS

Briefly, the Department of Health's proposals are to:

- Create a level playing field by offering pharmacists and dispensing appliance contractors the same remuneration for fulfilling prescriptions. This means that pharmacists will have to offer the same service as dispensing appliance contractors. Dispensing doctors are not included in these proposals.
- Allow contractors the choice to offer essential or advanced services:
  - Under essential services, users will receive the products, home delivery, disposal bags and wipes.
  - Under advanced services, in addition to the essential services, users will be able to have their stoma appliance customised to their requirements and have home visits from a qualified nurse connected to the dispensing appliance/pharmacy contractors.
- Ensure that wherever in England users of appliances live, they will receive a consistent level of services.



The ileostomy & internal pouch  
Support Group

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Email: [info@iasupport.org](mailto:info@iasupport.org) Website: [www.iasupport.org](http://www.iasupport.org)

IA is a UK registered charity whose primary aim is to help people who have to undergo surgery which involves the removal of the colon and the creation of either an ileostomy or an ileo-anal pouch

## Key Points

People with an ileostomy need high quality stoma care appliances, accessory products and patient services. It is essential that:

- patient services and stoma care products are not diminished
- patient choice and nursing services are maintained
- research and development is maintained and sustained

Reduction in any of the above elements could, potentially, be detrimental to the quality of life of someone with an ileostomy and would not meet the Department's main objective to 'maintain and where applicable improve the current quality of care to patients'.

## What can you do to help us and the Department of Health achieve a satisfactory outcome to this process?

- Inform your members about the proposals and their possible impact upon patient care as soon as possible.
- Encourage your members to write to the Health Minister outlining their concerns regarding the current proposals. Dawn Primarolo MP is the minister responsible for the consultation and any final decisions made regarding patient care and services will ultimately lie with her.

Dawn Primarolo MP  
Minister of State for Health  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London SW1

- Ask your members to write to their local MP in their own words and visit him/her during surgery sessions to outline the concerns. This provides a more personal method of informing them of the situation and of the effects the proposals could have. They may then be able to raise the issue in Parliament. The name of your local MP can be found at <http://www.upmystreet.com/commons/> and can then be reached at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.
- We are hoping that an Early Day Motion will be tabled in the next few days in Parliament regarding this issue. We will advise you further about this in the December national office newsletter when we will be asking you to encourage members to ask their MPs to support this Early Day Motion.

IA remains committed to making the appropriate representations at the highest level to ensure that members' needs are met under any new proposals. Your help in replying to the consultation document would be much appreciated.

The closing date of the consultation has been extended from 29 November 2007 to 28 December 2007. A response proforma Word document can be found on the Department's website or a paper copy can be obtained from IA national office.

Again, the website is [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_078135](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_078135)

All responses should be sent to Gita Fox at the Department of Health, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New King's Beam House, London SE1 9BW.

*Anne Demick*  
National Secretary  
November 2007