



DAVID T C DAVIES MP
Member for Monmouth

Please reply to:
The Grange
16 Maryport Street
Usk
Monmouthshire
NP15 1AB

Date: 31 July 2019
Our Ref: DD3053
Your Ref:

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Dear Matt

I have recently taken over the position of chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Skin and I wanted to alert you to a problem being faced by an increasing number of people, which is a lack of access to GP prescribed medical moisturisers (emollients) in England.

I understand NHS budgetary pressures have led to a situation in which many people who suffer from eczema, psoriasis and related dermatological conditions – and who have been prescribed with emollients to ease the pain and itching – are suddenly finding their access to emollients is being restricted or denied.

I fully appreciate the need to control costs within the NHS but I also know, through close experience with sufferers, that some people with severe conditions have to moisturise many times a day. Failing to do so leads to incredible itchiness. This in turn means that people scratch at skin which is already weakened and often comes off, leaving painful, bloody scabs which can easily become infected. Sufferers will then usually end up in hospital.

Because eczema is not normally a condition which shortens life, I am concerned it is seen as being less of a priority. In reality, those suffering from chronic severe eczema spend their lives distracted by constant itchiness, pain and the need to medicate multiple times a day. It means lack of sleep for younger people is sadly accompanied by bullying and a lack of understanding in schools.

Allowing adequate access to emollients on prescription is vital for sufferers of many chronic skin conditions. Regular use of emollient is necessary for everyone with diagnosed eczema to repair and protect the skin barrier and help prevent flare-ups.

My understanding is that this problem has largely been caused by Clinical Commissioning Groups misinterpreting NHS England's guidance on the prescription of

Constituency office tel: 01291 672817

Email: david.davies.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.david-davies.org.uk

Twitter: @DavidTCDavies Facebook: fb.com/davidtcdavies

How we use your data: To read our privacy notice visit www.david-davies.org.uk/privacy-notice



emollients. I will therefore be grateful if you could meet with myself and other concerned parliamentarians or, if not, ask an official within your department to look into the matter.

We need to ensure long-term skin conditions like severe eczema are treated with the priority they deserve and that nothing is done to restrict access to emollients from those who spend their lives suffering from this terrible condition.

Yours ever

David

David T C Davies MP

Constituency office tel: 01291 672817

Email: david.davies.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.david-davies.org.uk

Twitter: @DavidTCDavies Facebook: fb.com/davidtcdavies

How we use your data: To read our privacy notice visit www.david-davies.org.uk/privacy-notice