



Prescription Charges Coalition statement on the proposed reintroduction of prescription charges in Northern Ireland

The Prescription Charges Coalition of nearly 40 charities and organisations believes that everyone with a long-term condition should be exempt from prescription charges wherever they live in the UK. Currently, people with long-term conditions do not pay prescription charges in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, the majority of those who are of working age in England are charged.

Medication is extremely important to help people with long-term conditions to manage their symptoms and lead independent lives. There is a strong evidence base which demonstrates that prescription charges act as a barrier to people with long-term conditions obtaining the medication they require. This can lead to poor management of the condition and complications that may result in greater cost to health and social services.

People with long-term conditions in Northern Ireland would be disadvantaged by the reintroduction of charges and some may be unable to afford their medicines, potentially leading to poor health, increased hospital admissions and lower productivity.

Governments can choose how to raise revenue and support the availability of specialist medicines. The Prescription Charges Coalition do not believe it is appropriate, reasonable or fair to do this at the expense of those with long-term conditions and will be responding accordingly to the consultation.

February 2015

For Prescription Charges Coalition Membership, see over

Prescription Charges Coalition Membership

Anaphylaxis Campaign	Lupus UK
Androgen Insensitivity Support Group	Motor Neurone Disease Association
Arthritis Care	MS Society
Asthma UK	National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society
Behçets Syndrome Society	National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society
British Heart Foundation	PSC Support
British Liver Trust	Pernicious Anaemia Society
Chronic Granulomatous Disorder (CGD) Society	Primary Immunodeficiency UK (PID UK)
Crohn's and Colitis UK	Parkinson's UK
Cystic Fibrosis Trust	Raynaud's and Scleroderma Association
Disability Rights UK	Rethink Mental Illness
Drug & Therapeutics Bulletin	Royal Pharmaceutical Society
FibroAction	St Thomas' Lupus Trust
Fibromyalgia Association UK	Stroke Association
Genetic Alliance UK	Sickle Cell Society
Hibbs Lupus Trust	Terrence Higgins Trust
Hughes Syndrome Association	The Migraine Trust
Hypermobility Syndromes Association	Turner Syndrome Support Society
Klinefelter's Syndrome Association	UK Thalassaemia Society

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www.prescriptionchargescoalition.org.uk