



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Mr Nigel Hammond
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Our Ref: gb/HAMM01018/01080464

12 May 2008

Dear Mr Hammond

Paediatric Diabetes Services

I enclose a copy of the reply I have now received from Dr Nicholas Hicks, the Chief Executive of the Milton Keynes PCT.

I am sure you will be pleased to see that the PCT has now set aside the resources to recruit an extra Paediatric Diabetes Specialist Nurse for this financial year and that they are engaging in dialogue with the Hospital about ways in which specialist skills could be improved at a Hospital level and in particular in relation to the problem you highlighted of the use of insulin pump therapy.

Do contact me again if you have further comments or concerns on this issue.

Yours sincerely

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Dr Phyllis Starkey MP
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The Labour Hall
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28th April 2008

Dear Phyllis

RS 8/5

MG MA 2008

Paediatric Diabetes Services

Thank you for your letter and attachments of 8 April 2008 raising two issues pertaining to the care of children with diabetes in Milton Keynes.

(a) Paediatric diabetes specialist nurses (PDSN)

Your constituent is correct in saying that national guidance recommends one full-time paediatric specialist nurse per 70 children. In Milton Keynes, the single-handed PDSN has a larger case load than this and is currently contracted to work 30 hours per week (0.8 whole time equivalent), of which one day (7.5 hours) is paid for by a drug company.

The local planning group for diabetes care in Milton Keynes has flagged a second PDSN as its top priority for investment in each of the last two years, but each time the bid has had to be postponed because of financial pressure. However, I am glad to say that the PCT has the resource set aside to recruit a nurse this financial year and we intend to have one in post as soon as possible.

(b) NICE guidelines on use of insulin pumps

The 2003 NICE guidance (TA057) on use of insulin pumps in type 1 diabetes is currently under review and expected to be reissued in May 2008. The old version (and the draft updated version) recommends that:

(i) insulin pump therapy is one option for people with type 1 diabetes provided that:

- multiple-dose insulin therapy (including using insulin glargine when it's appropriate) has failed, and
- they are willing and able to use insulin pump therapy effectively.

(ii) the pumps should only be started by a trained specialist team. This team should include a doctor who specialises in insulin pump therapy, a diabetes nurse and a dietitian

Hospitals must implement NICE technical guidance such as this within 3 months of issue, and the PCT and Milton Keynes Hospital Foundation Trust have funding agreements in place to allow this to happen. Therefore, we will ask the hospital directly about the provision of this service as part of our monthly Quality Service Review meetings, and we would expect the opportunity of any new paediatric consultant appointment during 2008/9 to help address any lack of specialist skills in their team in time to meet the requirements of the updated NICE guidance.

I trust this addresses your constituent's concerns satisfactorily. Please don't hesitate to contact me again for any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nicholas Hicks
Chief Executive Milton Keynes PCT
Director of Public Health Milton Keynes PCT/Milton Keynes Council