



To: Petitions Committee, National Assembly for Wales

22nd November 2019

Dear Ms Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

RE: Petition P-05-849

Firstly, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important debate in the Welsh Assembly.

As a charity, we strongly support the introduction of pre-biopsy mpMRI in the diagnosis pathway as outlined by NICE in the revised guidelines on prostate cancer diagnosis and management which came into being in May 2019.

It is Orchid's view that the implementation of high-quality pre-biopsy mpMRI will likely reduce the number of men who are over diagnosed and overtreated for prostate cancer. This not only directly benefits patients who will be spared potentially unnecessary invasive treatments but could also save the health service in treatment and care costs. It is also possible that in time, if the number of overdiagnoses and overtreatments are reduced, there will be greater confidence in the diagnosis pathway which could help to encourage more men to seek medical attention sooner, aiding earlier diagnoses and improving outcomes for both patients and the health service.

We understand that only two of the seven Health Boards in Wales currently offer pre-biopsy mpMRI. It is our view that this must be addressed as a matter of urgency so as to achieve adherence to the NICE Guidelines across the entirety of Wales. It is not fair or equitable that some men in Wales currently have access to pre-biopsy mpMRI and others do not, simply based on location.

In view of the current situation, Orchid would in principle support an interim plan if it were to enable men who would be appropriate for a pre-biopsy mpMRI to do so – these men should not have to seek 'private means' in order to have a pre-biopsy mpMRI in line with NICE Guidance.

Orchid believe that if any interim arrangements should be put in place, they must only be interim and that efforts should not be diverted from delivering a full roll-out of pre-biopsy mpMRI across Wales. To that end we were reassured to read in the Minister's letter to the Petitions Committee (of 1st July 2019) that the Government and Health Boards have implementation plans in place. These must now be delivered as quickly as possible.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Stuart Davies and the 6,345 people who have pledged their support to this petition, their work in fighting for better outcomes for the men of Wales is admirable.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Porta

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