

**MacGill A (Alan)**

**From:** Caroleanne@dmansell.gotadsl.co.uk  
**Sent:** 21 February 2006 19:38  
**To:** prescriptioncharges  
**Subject:** Consultation Response

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**Review of NHS Prescription Charges and Exemption Arrangements in Scotland**

RESPONDENT INFORMATION DETAILS

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CONSULTATION RESPONSE

4.1 REVIEW OF EXEMPTIONS RELATED TO MEDICAL CONDITIONS

***Question 1: Whether exemption from all charges should continue to be given on medical grounds alone, and if so, whether the list of conditions should be reviewed?***

The list of conditions should be reviewed. All charges should continue to be exempt. The list of conditions has not been reviewed for a long time. People who have thyroid disease get free prescriptions and they will live a long life. Apart from some medication that it. Take people who suffer from Cystic Fibrosis and have their life expectancy greatly reduced do not get free prescriptions. the only thing that

	will help in their life is drugs from the doctor. But they have to pay. People used to die before they had to pay in the past but due to better drugs they now become adults only to pay for all their medication.
Question 2: Whether, where exemption is given on medical grounds, that exemption should relate only to drugs for the treatment of the medical condition in question, rather than (as at present) covering all drugs whether or not they relate to the condition that gives rise to the exemption?	This would be very hard to debate whether a medical problem is related to one other medical problem. This would be best left alone.
<b>Question 3: Whether it makes more sense to provide exemption based on a list of drugs, or based on a list of conditions?</b>	Based on medical conditions

#### 4.2 ECONOMIC NEED AFFORDABILITY

##### Pre-payment certificate scheme

Question 1: Whether prescription charge exemption should be extended to HC3 holders?

**Question 2: What changes to the PPC system would address current barriers to its use, particularly by those on low income, and maximise patients' benefit?**

##### Flat Fee

Question 1: Whether there should be a reduced flat fee for all (with current income based exemptions) and, if so, the level at which affordability to the patient and cost to the NHS can be balanced?

**Question 2: Whether there should be a monetary cap to the charges that a patient is required to pay over a set period of time, after which prescriptions should be free within this period of time?**

Question 3: Whether there should be a concessionary rate for patients who require frequent prescriptions, and whether the concession should be triggered by the costs incurred over a set period of time?

**Question 4: Whether there are other changes in the arrangements for pre-payments or caps**

<i>that are not listed above and which would maintain charge income in general for NHS Boards?</i>	
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#### 4.3 ABILITY TO PAY

<b>Question 1: Whether there is a case for extending the current 'full time student' threshold to cover tertiary education?</b>	
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Question 2: Whether exemption should be extended to all persons in full time education or training, regardless of their ability to pay?	
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<b>Question 3: Whether there should be concessionary charge arrangements for full time students or trainees above set age thresholds?</b>	
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Question 4: Whether there are other changes in the charging system that could remove the need for special arrangements for full time students or trainees?	
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#### SECTION 5: SUMMARY OF CHANGE POSSIBILITIES AND VIEWS SOUGHT

##### 5.1 REVIEW OF EXEMPTIONS RELATED TO MEDICAL CONDITIONS

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medical conditions should be reviewed in line with medical changes
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Question 2: Whether, where exemption is given on medical grounds, that exemption should relate only to drugs for the treatment of the medical condition in question, rather than (as at present) covering all drugs whether or not they relate to the condition that gives rise to the exemption?	
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#### 3 ABILITY TO PAY

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***Question 4: Whether there are other changes in the charging system that could remove the need for special arrangements for full time***

<i>students or trainees?</i>	
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