

Ms Charmian Runciman

Dear Ms Runciman

I would like to inform you of a real life practical example of the exemption rule not working in a fair and just manner.

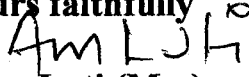
I speak with first hand experience of the system and its relationship towards my son who at the age of 19 contracted Bacterial Endocarditis. This condition required my son to undergo heart surgery and he was fitted with an artificial heart valve. As a result, he now has to take warfarin, every day, for the rest of his life. Failure to do so would cause blood clotting and death.

Under section 5: "Summary of Change Possibilities and Views Sought"

I would suggest 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. At the moment, the drug warfarin is not prescribed free of charge for my sons life threatening condition.

This option suggested would in some way help finance the changes required to encompass the many people in the same situation.

As the system stands at the moment, I feel that it wrong that people with "life threatening illnesses" (which is an incomplete list in my opinion) should also benefit from free medication for other non life threatening ailments.

Yours faithfully

Anne Luti (Mrs)

cc. Sylvia Jackson. MSP