

Scottish Executive Health Dept,
St Andrew House,
Regent Road,
Edinburgh.

Dear Mr Runciman,

Thank you for the copy of
the "Review of N.H.S. Prescription Charges and
Exemption Arrangements in Scotland" which
you forwarded to me.

My primary motivation in writing
initially to Mr Kerr, the Minister for Health
and Community Care, and now to yourself, is
to press the case for exemption from prescription
charges of those patients whose drugs are
required in order to preserve life on a
lifelong basis as opposed to those patients
whose drugs are required to relieve a
specific problem and / or for a limited
duration.

specific example of this would be transplant patients - a group whose special and particular needs have already been recognised by Mr Kerr. The problems faced by these patients are beyond doubt "easily recognisable, lifelong and life threatening (Annex B, p 26, para 4) and I would therefore urge the exemption of drugs pertaining to such patients (eg Azathioprine, Prednisolone) by their addition to the N.H.S. List (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Regulations (Annex B, p 26, para 3).

The case for such action is, of course, not only medical but also financial as such patients are presently bound to continue payment for their drugs (albeit with the help of P.P.C.'s) until they achieve the age of 60 - a period of over 40 years in many cases.

I therefore commend the above exception to the review body and hope to hear from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Charles & S. Carr