

PATIENT CAMPAIGN PACK

EXAMPLE COVER LETTER

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The names in this letter are not those of actual individuals but are for illustration purposes only.

15 Woodlands Place
Lane End
High Wycombe
Bucks
HP14 XXX

14th April 2007

Dear Mr Smith

RE: AVAILABILITY OF ORAL ANTICOAGULATION TESTING STRIPS

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your current policy on the funding of the test strips for anticoagulation monitoring. I am writing as part of a campaign supported by the charity AntiCoagulation Europe (ACE) – please find a letter from ACE attached, providing more detail.

Two years ago, I started to experience palpitations and shortness of breath and was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation by my GP. I was referred to a consultant, who prescribed warfarin and explained that I would need to be regularly checked to ensure my blood was kept at the right thickness. As you can imagine, the idea of having to spend the rest of my life going in and out of hospital was devastating.

I go to hospital every four weeks to have my INR levels monitored. It is a 45 minute drive to my local hospital and there are considerable parking charges. It is not uncommon to wait up to an hour for my blood test results and I rarely see the consultant. Inevitably this has an enormous impact on both my work and social life due to the time spent at these appointments.

I feel the regular time off work I have to take to attend these appointments is affecting my job and have recently spoken with my GP to discuss the option of self-testing so I can check my own INR levels at home. I am keen to get started as soon as possible as I feel self-testing would make a real difference to my life, not only in making my work easier to manage but also in giving me more time to spend with my family. However, the cost of buying test strips for a point of care monitor is not something I can afford in the long-term.

Friends who I have met through ACE tell me their strips are funded by the NHS and it seems unfair that I would have to pay for mine just because of where I live. I urge you to reconsider the reimbursement of anticoagulation test strips in this area as it would have a huge impact on my life and the lives of many other people in a similar situation.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Brown

cc: **Dr Nick Harris, General Practitioner, The Surgery, High Wycombe**
Mr John Smith, Wycombe Primary Care Trust
Mr Paul Goodman, Wycombe MP, Houses of Parliament