

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2010 16:01
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Complaint

[REDACTED]

Finasteride (Propecia) is a licensed product however is not prescribable on the NHS by GPs because it has been added to the list of products that GPs cannot prescribe at NHS expense. Products are added to this list on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on NHS Drugs or the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances. These independent committees, comprised of medical and pharmaceutical experts, advise UK Health Ministers on the drugs and other substances (for example certain foods or products such as sun blocks) which should not be prescribed at NHS expense.

GPs in Scotland are contracted to Health Boards to deliver essential Primary Care Services to registered patients on their practice list. These contracts are regulated under the NHS General Medical Services Contract (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and contain detailed information as to the prescribing of drugs, medicines or appliances to patients who require them for medical purposes.

Under the NHS (Scotland) Act 1978 as amended, GPs in Scotland are at liberty to prescribe drugs and appliances as required but they must adhere to the list of drugs, medicines and other substances that should not be ordered by contracted GPs. However they may prescribe such a drug or other substance for that patient in the course of that treatment under private arrangement.

I hope this helps clarify the position.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Primary and Community Care
1ER, SAH
Tel: 0131 244 2597
Fax: 0131 244 2326

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 August 2010 12:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Complaint

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your quick reply. It is my understanding a GP does not require the medication to be licenced for use by the manufacturer and can prescribe the medication, can you please advise how a patient can formally contest the decision by the NHS not to fund the medication or ask for this decision to be reconsidered based on need?

Regards

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Complaint
Date: Tue, 3 Aug 2010 09:47:06 +0100
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been passed your query regarding help towards the cost of treatment not available on the NHS.

I can advise that financial help is not available for the cost of private treatment. Following a consultation exercise it was agreed that Finasteride (Propecia) would only be available on private prescription from GPs in Scotland. The manufacturer, MSD, do not believe that any country's healthcare system should fund this product. Most respondents to the consultation agreed that treatment of natural hair loss cannot be considered a high priority for expenditure of NHS resources, or compare with our priorities of cancer, heart disease and mental health.

However I note from your email that you have recently become unemployed. Depending on what benefits you receive you may be entitled to help with NHS costs such as NHS prescription charges, dental and optical treatment. If you are not automatically entitled you may apply for help with NHS health costs through the NHS Low Income Scheme. Further information is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts

I'm sorry my reply could not be more favourable.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Policy Officer
Primary & Community Care Directorate

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 July 2010 19:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Complaint

Sir/Madam

I have recently been assessed as requiring treatment for hairloss by a Doctor at my local health centre and have been prescribed Finasteride tablets privately. I have been informed that this medication is not currently available on the NHS. Having recently been made unemployed I am now of very limited means and this treatment is costing £92.00 every three months. I am therefore in the difficult position, where i must pay the full cost of this treatment indefinitely, which is very difficult financially. I am writing to request information on if help is available towards the cost of treatment or if there is a process of requesting that the medication be available on the NHS.

[REDACTED]

Get a free e-mail account with Hotmail. Sign-up now.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 August 2010 17:12
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Cost of private prescriptions.

Dear [REDACTED]

Private prescribing is not monitored by the NHS therefore you would need to speak with your GP to confirm what charge applies for private prescriptions. Again, in the pharmacy I cannot advise what you may be charged. It would be up to the contractor to decide what they wished to charge for dispensing. You will also be required to pay for the cost of the medication.

I hope you find this helpful

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IER, SAH
Tel: 0131 244 2597
Fax: 0131 244 2326

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 August 2010 14:36
To: Prescription Charges
Subject: Cost of private prescriptions.

Hi,
Can you tell me how much I will be charged for a private prescription by my GP? Also when I take the private prescription to the chemist do they charge for dispensing the prescription?

regards [REDACTED]

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Extract from MACCS correspondence 2018/0036002 – reply dated 14 November 2018 sent to an individual

I can confirm that prescription charges were abolished by the Scottish Government from April 2011, meaning that NHSScotland prescriptions are now provided at no charge to patients. However, from the description you have provided in your letter, it sounds as if your granddaughter may have been given a private prescription from the optometrist she saw, rather than a NHS prescription. Private prescriptions are treated and processed differently from NHS prescriptions and therefore subject to a charge - with a private prescription it is for the community pharmacy to decide what charge to apply for dispensing and the patient also has to pay for the cost of the medication.