

Your Committee Members



Chairman

Not one at present
position still vacant

Secretary

Mr Dave Drakeley
47 Gloucester Road
Tilgate
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 5HR
01293 409379

davedrakeley@sussexia.org.uk

Treasurer

Mr Tony Mason
25 Woodlands Road
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 3EH
01342 321490

Journal Distributor

Mrs Liz Fincham
11 Clayton Park
Hassocks
West Sussex
BN6 8JQ
01273 843359

Mrs Margaret Church
26 Great Brooms Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 9DF
01892 545709

Mrs Thirza Jago
Rainbows End
23 Rodney Crescent
Ford, Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 0DB
01903 719798

Pouch Representative

Mrs Stella Harris
2 Church Walk
Worthing
BN11 2LH
01903 206655

Young Persons Representative

Mrs Kelly Woodhouse
7 Seymore Road
Broadfield
Crawley
RH11 9ES
07821 870929
kellywoodhouse@sussexia.org.uk

Stoma Nurse Representitve

Mrs Jane Myer
Contact via Dave Drakeley

Sussex I.A. 47 Gloucester Road, Tilgate, Crawley, West Sussex. RH10 5HR

Telephone: 01292 409379.

Email: info@sussexia.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1038849

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we know,
we care*

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www.sussexia.org.uk

email: info@sussexia.org.uk



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Department of Health Consultation Document in Relation to the provision of stoma and urology appliances June 2008

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*Please write,
the more that
do, the more
notice might
be taken*

In 2005 the Department of Health proposed changes to the way the way you the ostomist received your supplies/choice of stoma equipment. This is the 6th consultation document since this process began in 2005. Through various organisations response alongside patients we have managed to alter what they propose. We have been asked by the Sussex ia group to outline how the proposals in this new document can affect you and how you the patient can help.

All products that stoma patients receive on prescription are put onto Part IXC of the Drug Tariff before being allocated a certain price, agreed by the Department of Health and the manufacturer. The Department of Health will then pay the manufacturer the agreed price per item as prescribed. Manufacturers and pharmacist can increase the "mark up" (on cost) on the price of the product by providing delivery services. At present there is disparity between the price the Department of Health will give to the delivery company (DAC's) and the pharmacist (chemist). The consultation document aims to ensure equitable payment to both.

With this levelling the consultation document aims to set out two levels of service with a minimum standard of service delivery from both the DAC's and the pharmacists.

It proposes that every DAC and pharmacy contractor in England should be required to provide essential services to include, dispensing prescription, home delivery, complimentary supplies and dispensing belts, girdles and trusses as necessary. For this service they will all get the same fee.

The second level of delivery which carries additional funding proposes that some DAC's and pharmacies can provide advanced services to include customisation (cutting) and appliance use review(AUR's). The AUR's are intended to improve the patients' knowledge of the products. This review is intended to compliment the care provided by healthcare professionals employed by the NHS. These AUR's will either be carried out at the patients' home or in the DAC'S premises. They are restricted in numbers and will be delivered by specialist nurses employed by the DAC and pharmacy contractor. What the consultation document does not state is the qualifications of the nurse delivering the AUR's will possess.

... Continue overleaf

Also proposed is the changes to what manufacturers get paid per product. Some products which are more expensive may be capped at a certain price resulting in potential discontinuation by the manufacturers. Along with the above proposed changes some of the older under utilised products may be removed from the Drug Tariff making them no longer available.

Thanks to your responses we have managed to change this proposal significantly from its original form. It would be useful if you continued to do so.

The Department of Health are asking for comment by the 8th September 08 preferable by email Primaryandacute.part9@dh.gsi.gov.uk but you can post it to:

Part IX Consultation
Department of Health
5th Floor
New King's Beam House
22 Upper Ground
London SE1 9BW

They do provide a template for you to respond with (http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_063255 or contact Dave Drakeley for a copy). Some of the questions on the template are not all applicable to all respondent. They are happy to accept a letter stating the importance of freedom of choice on equipment and delivery services nurses training to carry out AUR's and anything else you feel is essential to your supply of equipment.

This is an interpretation of the document from both Jane Myer and Jackie Tunnicliffe we hope you find it useful and urge you to respond directly.

Added information to the above article is something that was heard the other day and that is at least one Primary Care Trust (PCT) is in consultations outside of the NHS guidelines to supply their ostomy patients with equipment from just 1 manufacturer and 1 supplier. The quantity of bags that you may have will be severely regulated by your GP just as medication is done now. One month's supply at a time with a maximum quantity set.

If this is done purely on cost then that PCT's patients will be getting bags from a manufacturer that until I heard this information I had never heard of them before. We could all be in serious difficulty if this is allowed to happen and to spread to your local PCT. We will lose everything that makes us more comfortable with our bags and everything that has been fought for, for the last 50 years. A real backward step. This may sound alarmist but this could very well happen. Our Scottish cousins are having difficulty with the way their system now runs and it could be spreading.

Please act now and write to your MP and your PCT expressing your fears. The more people that write in this way then the more chance we have of stopping this catastrophe from happening.

Please write now

*Changes have
been made but
more to do*



Dave's Ramblings

There are still some subs not paid and loads of forms not returned. Don't blame me if things aren't quite right with your details.

Date for the diary is **Saturday March 14th 2009**. It's the date set for the AGM. Hopefully it will be in Littlehampton and we might even have a speaker this time. If we get plenty of response to the ticket draw below then refreshments might be free. **KEEP THAT DATE!**



KELLY'S KORNER

COME ON YOU YOUNG GONES OUT THERE. I'M TRYING TO ORGANISE A BOWLING NIGHT WITH MAYBE A MEAL. WE MIGHT EVEN GET IT SUBSIDISED SO COULD BE A CHEAP EVENING OUT. SOME OF THE 25 OF YOU MUST WANT TO MEET UP WITH OTHERS IN THE SAME BOAT. WE MIGHT EVEN GET SOME OTHERS FROM OUTSIDE SUSSEX. HOPEFULLY IT'LL BE ON SEPTEMBER 13TH.

LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING.

*Come and have
some fun bowling
and meet new
people into the
bargain*

Website News

Update on the website is that the forum is back up and running. Slightly altered but working. The security aspect has been sorted but the only drawback is that any of you that have registered in the past will have to again if you want to post anything and also see some of the sections.

WWW.sussexia.org.uk

Win a pair of British Airways tickets

We have a pair of BA tickets to raffle to help with our funds and hopefully boost our AGM meeting. The tickets are for anywhere in Europe on the BA network and are valid up till the end of March. Chances to win these tickets are £2 each and you can buy as many chances as you like. The more you buy the greater the chance of winning. Send Dave Drakeley your name and address and how many chances you want along with a cheque etc. Cheques made payable as usual to Sussex *ia*.

Don't miss out on this brilliant opportunity to get these tickets for almost nothing.

The draw will take place during the week starting 20th October which means that your names etc need to be with me by 18th October. This will enable the winner to have the greatest choice of flights but still leave you a reasonable time to respond.

[Apply for those chances now](#)