



October 9th 2015

The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Dear Mr Hunt,

Report: Diabetes 2015 – Care in Crisis

As an independent charity for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, we are requesting that, as Secretary of State for Health, you re-examine the care of people with diabetes within the National Health Service.

While we welcome the proposed Diabetes Prevention Programme to reduce the future incidence of obesity and Type 2 diabetes, we are very concerned for the health of over 3 million people who are already living with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Many of them have not received the essential care they need to maintain their health and avoid the complications of diabetes, added to which the treatment of the complications are costing a large proportion of the £10 billion per annum spent on diabetes by the NHS.

As a result of a survey and communications from our members, we have prepared the enclosed report, *'Diabetes 2015 – Care in Crisis'*. This highlights the concerns of people with diabetes and makes recommendations that could help to alleviate many of the problems. The key recommendations include the following:

- Diabetes should be a priority in the Five Year Forward Review, independently of obesity, in a similar way to dementia, which has a third of the number of people with diabetes, by reinstating an organisation similar to the defunct NHS Diabetes.
- CCGs should be strongly encouraged to follow NICE guidance to commission convenient, high-quality, structured education courses. To alleviate the problem that an estimated 2.50 million people have not received such education courses, CCGs should at least provide basic hard copy information about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and their treatments.
- The present dietary guidelines are over 30 years old, therefore an independent, systematic review should be carried out to provide up-to-date, evidence-based dietary guidelines for diabetes and the public.
- Resources should be increased to ensure that adults with diabetes receive the 9 key health checks and children receive the 7 key health checks recommended by NICE to prevent the complications of diabetes.

- There must be an increase in the numbers and availability of NHS podiatrists and further training of health professionals in primary care to ensure that foot problems are recognised at an early stage and appropriate advice and action is given.
- CCGs must put plans in place to improve diabetes care and quality of life for older people resident in care homes, including ensuring good training for care home staff of all levels and mandatory demonstration of this should be a CQC requirement.

We accept that there are many competing interests within the NHS, but we hope that you will seriously consider implementing the full recommendations in the report, *'Diabetes 2015 – Care in Crisis'* and take steps to improve the health and quality of life of people already living with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely
Jenny Hirst

Jenny Hirst MBE,
Co-Chair
InDependent Diabetes Trust