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23/07/2012 11:36

To
Katy Knight/OIS/DOH@DOH
cc

Subject
Advice on questions

Dear Katy,

I was about to put down the questions below for written answer when it occurred to me that if I showed them to you first I might be able to find answers to them in a way that caused the DH less time and trouble.

I am happy to be sent off to read or to talk - to do the legwork generally.

I am coming to this area new, as a consumer-by-proxy (with a 9 year old daughter). It appears to me that we may have been seduced into funding expensive treatments that have a very shallow health justification, and that we ought to re-examine what we are doing in these hard times - that we are

being offered NHS treatment for something that the NHS has no business funding. My questions are aimed at making a start on understanding whether I am right in my suppositions.

Yours,

Ralph Lucas

1. To ask HMG: what is their best estimate of the current annual cost to the NHS of orthodontic therapy, including associated extractions and surgery?
2. To ask HMG: what factors they regard as being the causes of the problems treated by orthodontic therapy (for a 'normal healthy' child requiring orthodontic treatment); what scientific papers and related evidence this is based on; and what is the pathological process by which these factors are thought to affect a child?
3. To ask HMG: what they regard as the process by which current orthodontic treatment aims to treat the suspected causes of orthodontic problems?
4. To ask HMG: if the NHS funded only the correction of the upper visible teeth in patients with misaligned but functional dentition, what is their estimate of the consequent annual saving to the NHS, and of the health benefits forgone by those who would otherwise have had full orthodontic

treatment.

5. To ask HMG: what is their best estimate of the proportion of NHS patients who have undergone substantial orthodontic work and who have subsequently either been diagnosed with sleep apnea or have seen an ENT specialist; and what those proportions are for patients who have not undergone orthodontic work.

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