

CAMPAIGN FOR THE ROYAL LONDON HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL



April 2007

Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital
Great Ormond Street
London WC1N 3HR
020 7391 8890
www.savenhshomeopathy.org

Dear Supporter,

Early Day Motion in the House of Commons on NHS Homeopathic Hospitals

I am writing to ask you to support an important parliamentary Early Day Motion (EDM) which may lead to a parliamentary debate on NHS Homeopathy. The number of the EDM is 1240, the text is below.

To be successful it needs the signatures of at least 200 MPs. Please contact your MP, preferably by phone on 0207 219 3000 (you can also write or email) and ask him or her to sign **Early Day Motion 1240 on 'NHS Homeopathic Hospitals'**. Please ask your friends and family to do the same, as soon as possible.

EDMs are parliamentary petitions which can be signed by any MPs except Members of the Government or opposition front benches. To have influence it needs cross party support and the support of 'respected' members. See the fact sheet attached for more information.

Thank you for your support.

Peter Fisher
Clinical Director

EDM 1240
NHS HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITALS
28.03.2007
Vis, Rudi MP

"That this House welcomes the positive contribution made to the health of the nation by the NHS homeopathic hospitals; notes that some six million people use complementary treatments each year; believes that complementary medicine has the potential to offer clinically-effective and cost-effective solutions to common health problems faced by NHS patients, including chronic difficult to treat conditions such as musculoskeletal and other chronic pain, eczema, depression, anxiety and insomnia, allergy, chronic fatigue and irritable bowel syndrome; expresses concern that NHS cuts are threatening the future of these hospitals; and calls on the Government actively to support these valuable national assets".

Your MP:

Barnet

Chipping Barnet: Theresa Villiers

Finchley & Golders Green: Dr Rudi Vis (no point writing, he is the sponsor)

Hendon: Andrew Dismore

Brent

Brent East: Sarah Teather

Brent North: Barry Gardiner

Brent South: Dawn Butler

Camden

Hampstead & Highgate: Glenda Jackson

Holborn & St Pancras: Frank Dobson

Hammersmith and Fulham

Ealing, Acton & Shepherd's Bush: Andy Slaughter

Hammersmith & Fulham: Greg Hands

Harrow

Harrow East: Tony McNulty

Harrow West: Gareth Thomas

Kensington and Chelsea

Kensington & Chelsea: Sir Malcolm Rifkind

Regent's Park & Kensington North: Karen Buck

Westminster

Cities of London & Westminster Mark Field

Regent's Park & Kensington North Karen Buck

All at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

If your MP doesn't appear in this list and you don't know his/her name, you can find it at:

www.parliament.uk. You can also email your MP this way.

Early Day Motions – Background Information

EDMs exist to allow MP to put on record their opinion on a subject and canvass support for it from fellow Members i.e. it is a form a kind of petition that MPs can sign but there is very little prospect of these motions being debated on the floor of the House unless they are signed by about 200 MP.

EDMs are used to publicise the views of individual Members of Parliament, and to demonstrate the extent of support among MPs for a particular cause or point of view. Public interest in them, demonstrates their purpose. Even if an EDM does not attract wide national press coverage it may well receive attention locally or regionally.

The first-named Member is regarded as the Member in charge of the motion. The Member in charge may choose which five other names should appear among the six sponsors at the head of the motion.

EDMs may be referred to in debate. In particular, they are often mentioned during business questions. The first time an EDM is mentioned at business questions, the text is set out in full, in the Official Report (Hansard). Members will often ask a supplementary question following the Thursday lunchtime business statement along the lines of “Can we have a debate next week on my motion EDM No. XXX, which” It is not necessary to read out the text of the EDM, as Hansard will insert the full text, but not the names of the signatories. The relevant Government department will have provided the Leader of the House with a “line to take” in response to a supplementary about an EDM at business questions. This requirement to prepare a briefing for a Cabinet Minister will alert civil servants to the strength of feeling on the topic raised in the EDM.

Generally only all-party motions obtain large numbers of signatures. Certain motions, especially of the all-party category, are suggested to Members by pressure groups outside the House, and such organisations often go to much trouble in trying to persuade Members to sign "their" motion.

MPs sign Early Day Motions by tearing out pages from their copy and signing below the chosen EDM. MPs often simply give the Table Office the relevant number and ask for their name to be added. A running total of the number of signatures to date is also printed each time the EDM appears in the “Blues”. Signatures given in when the House is not sitting will be added on the next sitting day.

Members may give the Table Office the names of other Members to be added to the list of those supporting the EDM. Any Member doing so is personally responsible for the accuracy of the names of other Members appended by them to EDMs and they ought to have those Members’ authority for the addition of their names.

Ministers and whips do not normally sign EDMs. Under the Ministerial Code, Parliamentary Private Secretaries “must not associate themselves with particular

groups advocating special policies”, and they do not normally sign EDMs. Neither the Speaker nor Deputy Speakers will sign EDMs. Internal party rules may also affect who can sign early day motions.

In an average Parliamentary Session only about six or seven EDMs reach over 200 signatures, but perhaps 70 or 80 get over 100 signatures.

Duration of EDMs: EDMs remain current for the rest of the session in which they were put down and extra names can be added at any time up until the session end. For the first two weeks, motions are reprinted when new names are added. They are then reprinted only on Thursdays if any signatures have been added to the EDM since it was last printed. At the end of the session all EDMs fall, but can be introduced again in the new session. They do not automatically carry forward the signatures appended to them in the previous session.

Tracing Early Day Motions: The PIMS EDM database, is available through the Parliament Website at <http://edmi.parliament.uk/edmi/>. This enables lists to be produced of those who have signed particular EDMs.

Ministers and whips do not normally sign EDMs. Under the Ministerial Code, Parliamentary Private Secretaries “must not associate themselves with particular groups advocating special policies”, and they do not normally sign EDMs. Neither the Speaker nor Deputy Speakers will sign EDMs. Internal party rules may also affect who can sign early day motions.

In an average Parliamentary Session only about six or seven EDMs reach over 200 signatures, but perhaps 70 or 80 get over 100 signatures.

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/p03.pdf>: EDM Fact Sheet