

To whom it may concern,

it has come to my notice that some changes may be made regarding a cut in the rebate for seeing a clinical psychologist. I would like to comment on this.

**Enhanced skills of clinical and neuropsychologists. These clinicians undergo more years of tuition and training than a general psychologists. They are specialists with specialist training ( assessment and therapy )**

**There is a difference between a psychologist and a CLINICAL psychologist.**

**When it is necessary for a patient to see a clinical psychologist it is understandable that this specialist is going to cost more and to give the same rebate as that of a general psychologist is like giving the same rebate to a G.P. as to a specialist M.D.**

**I am sure the committee is able to comprehend the difference and realise the consequences of not differentiating between a Clinical psychologist and a psychologist.**

**Who will want to spend all that extra time and effort and not to have it recognised. Who would treat those patients in need of a Clinical Psychologist in the future after students realise their work will not be properly rewarded so don't do the extra training?**

**rebate cuts from 12 TO 10 SESSIONS P.A**

**If a patient is ill and requires at least 12 sessions but the rebate cuts out at 10 they may have to seek treatment from a G.P. or a psychiatrist where they will receive a rebate. As the G.P. is not qualified in clinical psychology the patients illness will suffer. The role of a psychiatrist is not the same as a psychologist. That is why psychiatrists refer patients to a psychologist, otherwise they would treat them themselves.**

**So if the patient requires extra sessions the rebate will be paid to a G.P. or a psychiatrist, neither of whom are qualified, or understand the patient as does the treating psychologist. Particularly in a case involving a clinical psychologist.**

**There would be no saving for the govt. in this case. In all probability the patient would need many more sessions due to the change of doctors and difference in treatment.**

I hope I have made these points clear to the committee. It really is just common sense.

Yours sincerely

Jan Lavoipierre