

Dear Minister

I take this opportunity to submit my response in relation to the ceasing of funding for Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HOT).

I've had a chronic foot ulcer for over ten-years, which has previously been treated by three unsuccessful skin grafts. This time I undertook Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment prior to, and immediately following the skin graft, resulting in the graft taking. What this means for me is that I no longer need to visit and tie up resources at my local hospital as an out patient. I no longer need to spend in excess for a \$100 per week in dressings. I no longer need to take time off work for medical appointments related to the leg ulcer. I no longer need to visit my local GP regularly because of the foot ulcer.

It would seem to me that removing Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment for non-diabetic wounds will create greater economic pain, as more people will stress the hospital system over longer periods of time whilst their wounds stagnate or get worse.

I'm not sure that Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) would typically accompany changes of this magnitude however, if one was undertaken, it would be extraordinary that the impact to the community would not be greater with the removal of Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment for non-diabetic patients. I understand that the removal of non diabetic patients will minimise budget impact however, as I can testify, the cost to patients and the hospital and medical system will increase.

I ask that you please have all the facts before making your final decision.

Regards

Mike Busetti