Access to Treatment and Medication

There are 8 million migraine sufferers in the UK and an estimated 190,000 migraine attacks every day. There are a number of treatment options for migraine sufferers including a huge range of preventive and acute drugs. There is no standard treatment for migraine. Migraine sufferers should seek clinical advice from a suitably qualified health professional about the treatment options available to them.

The Migraine Trust supports the use of clinical treatments with a good quality evidence base that are recommended by a suitably qualified health professional for the treatment of migraine. We welcome new treatment options to help management of the condition and improve the quality of life of those affected. Neurologists with a special interest in headache are best placed to provide clinical judgment in individual cases where questions about suitability and funding arise.

Funding for treatment should not be determined by where the patient lives and receives their NHS care. All migraine sufferers should have equal access to the best available treatments and should not face a ‘postcode lottery’ system.

It is essential that health professionals are free to use their clinical expertise to prescribe the most appropriate medication and treatment for their patient. Consideration of clinical need to improve the quality of life for sufferers of this debilitating condition should guide NHS decision on funding these treatments. This principle also applies to the fair and equal consideration for the funding of emerging migraine treatments on the NHS.

The Migraine Trust is aware that at times migraine sufferers can have difficulties accessing the treatments recommended for them by their health professional. This is unacceptable and we are committed to supporting migraine patients and their health professionals to ensure that the treatment and management of this debilitating condition is not compromised.

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