

## **Response to concerns about the membership of our ME/CFS guideline committee**

We are aware that the causes of ME/CFS and the treatments that should be made available are the subject of debate and disagreement. Many people living with the condition hold strong views on both questions. Because of this, we are working to ensure that the membership of the guideline committee, when complete, will contain a balance of those who have expressed clear views, together with those who have not taken a position on the currently available evidence.

As a result of concerns raised with the appointments made so far we have reviewed the appointments and we consider that they are appropriate and that any interests that the committee members have declared can be managed using our conflicts of interest policy.

The proposed committee membership includes people with a range of views, and is balanced between those with differing views. We will ensure that this balance is maintained as far as is possible in the final appointments yet to be made.

It is important that the guideline committee has the experience and expertise to consider the published evidence and to take account of the views of people who receive and who provide care for this condition. Our arrangements for appointing the chair, vice chair and the members of guideline committees are designed to ensure that the opportunity to take part is advertised and that appointments are made on merit.

We hope that you will allow the guideline committee to begin its work and judge it not on the basis of the reported views of those who sit on it, but by how it interprets the evidence and the way in which it takes account of individual perspectives and experience. There will be the opportunity to comment on the draft recommendations as part of our consultation process.

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