All Members of Parliament

Houses of Parliament

London SW1A 0AA 28 October 2019

Dear Colleague,

**Cystic Fibrosis Drugs**

I am delighted to inform you of the landmark agreement reached last week between NHS England and Improvement, and Vertex Pharmaceuticals on Orkambi and other innovative cystic fibrosis drugs meaning that NHS patients in England will now have access to Orkambi and Symkevi, and access to Kalydeco will be extended.

This wonderful news gives hope to so many patients and their families across the country after the many months of negotiations that I know have been so frustrating to the families concerned. And it is thanks to the campaigners and, of course, the many colleagues in Parliament who took such an interest in this issue, that we’ve managed to reach this moment.

The deal is great value for money for the NHS, and crucially, will improve thousands of lives.

This deal, on the back of several others this summer, shows why we get some of the most innovative and best value drugs in the world, and is another reason to be so proud of our NHS.

NHS England have committed that clinicians will be able to start offering these treatments within 30 days from when this was announced. And to note, access to all three drugs has been agreed not only for all current licenced indications, but for possible future licence extensions too.

I would also like to highlight that the NHS has agreed with Vertex that the terms of the agreement may also apply in Wales and Northern Ireland, if the devolved administrations wish to benefit from them. Scotland has agreed a separate arrangement with Vertex.

I would be grateful if you would consider sharing this terrific news with your constituents, many of whom, I’m sure, will be affected by this.

**Yours ever,**

**MATT HANCOCK**