

1. Contact your MP

Contacting your MP is a fantastic way to get the issues highlighted in *From patent to patient: analysing access to innovative cancer drugs* in front of the people with power. Your personal experience will really highlight why improving cancer care and getting new and innovative drugs to patients as quickly as possible is so important, so do let them know your personal cancer story too.

If you don't know who your MP is, or how to contact them, you can find out here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

MPs only have to respond to their constituents, so it's very important you include your home address (including your postcode) and contact information in the email. Otherwise your email may not get the attention it deserves.

We'd love to see the impact your support is having, so please cc policy@icr.ac.uk in your email.

We don't want to dilute the message of the paper, so if you have something else to talk to your MP about, please do send it to them separately. For your email to have the most impact, keep it direct and non-party political.

If you need help with what to say, we've developed a template you can use:

Dear [*insert name of your MP*],

I am writing to ask you to urge the Government to take action to improve access to innovative new treatments for people with cancer.

The Institute of Cancer Research, London, has published new analysis in *From patent to patient – analysing access to innovative cancer drugs* which looks at trends in cancer drugs over the last two decades to assess whether the system is successfully delivering innovative new treatments for cancer patients in the UK.

The study built on earlier research in our [drug access report](#) and found that:

- Highly innovative drugs took longer to reach NHS patients than conventional treatments
- Increasing numbers of cancer drugs are being licensed but treatments are taking longer to progress through trials and approval

This issue is important to me because...

[This is your opportunity to share your story and highlight any issues which you recognise as important from your own experience]

The ICR is now calling on the Government to build stronger incentives into the whole system of drug discovery and development in order to encourage companies to take forward innovative new treatments that can deliver major advances for patients.

To address the concerns raised in the study over the regulation of clinical trials and drug licensing in the UK and Europe, it also suggests that the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and EMA should adapt their approaches to regulation to make it easier to take exciting new treatments to patients.

As your constituent, I would be grateful if you could write to Jo Churchill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care, and urge her to work with the ICR and others to take action on the report's recommendations.

You can find out more here: icr.ac.uk/drugaccess

Best wishes,

[Please include your name, full address and postcode so your MP can respond.]

2. Spread the message on social media

We would love as many people as possible to know the findings of our study, and you can help spread the message by using the power of social media. Tell your friends, family and followers on Facebook and Twitter so that we can make the most difference possible to people living with and beyond cancer.

Some MPs are also very active on Twitter. If yours is, another great way of getting their attention is to send them a tweet. Their Twitter handle can also be found on: <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

If you have a blog and want to write about the findings of the report, we can help you, so please get in touch: stories@icr.ac.uk

If you need inspiration for what to say on social media, we have developed some template posts, which can be shared as they are or edited:

Twitter:

I'm supporting @ICR_London's call to improve access to innovative new treatments for people with cancer. Read their report to find out more and please help spread the word: icr.ac.uk/drugaccess #DrugAccess #patent2patient

Facebook:

I'm supporting The Institute of Cancer Research's call to improve access to innovative new treatments for people with cancer. Read their report to find out more and please help spread the word: <https://www.icr.ac.uk/drugaccess> #DrugAccess #patent2patient

3. Tell your support group

Telling your support group about the findings is a great way to inform the people directly affected by drug access and raise awareness of the issues we need to change. They can also get involved by joining you in steps 1 and 2 and help us make as big an impact as possible.

If you would like some copies of the paper to share at a meeting, get in touch at stories@icr.ac.uk and we can either email you a pdf for printing yourself, or post you out some copies.

You can also use the template social media posts from step 2 if you would like to share the paper with a Facebook group you are a member of.

4. Keep up to date with our progress

You can keep up to date with all of our blogs, news stories and videos about our drug access campaign on our website and social media channels. You may also see some of our fantastic patient advocates and hear why fast access to innovative new drugs is important to them.

Follow us on: [The ICR website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)