

## 1. Contact your MP

Contacting your MP about the issues highlighted in the ***Patent to Patient – analysing access to innovative cancer drugs*** report is a fantastic way to get these issues in front of the people with power, so we can make change happen to improve outcomes for people living with cancer.

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 is 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 would love to see the impact your support is having and the traction we have gained, so please cc [policy@icr.ac.uk](mailto:policy@icr.ac.uk) in your email.

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

If you need help with inspiration of what to say, here is a template we have developed:

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 launched a new report, ***From patent to patient – analysing access to innovative cancer drugs***, looking at trends in cancer drugs over the last two decades, to assess whether the system is successfully delivering innovative new cancer treatments for patients in the UK.

The report finds that:

- rapid advances in cancer research have driven a big increase in the number of treatments developed – but the average time for a drug to go from patent to NHS patient has increased by more than a year
- there are stark differences in the rate of developing new drugs for different tumour types – cancers of especially high unmet need are often not benefiting from the exciting advances seen in other tumour types
- for paediatric cancers, there are very few targeted drugs coming through at all – there is an urgent need to ensure children with cancer begin to benefit from advances in treatment in the same way as adult patients
- NICE needs to do more to deliver the most innovative drugs to patients as it was no more likely to approve a highly innovative drug for NHS use than a low-innovation drug.

This report 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 for the Government, regulators and pharmaceutical companies to work together to accelerate the pace of drug development, by learning from international best practice to streamline regulation and by embracing smaller, smarter clinical trials.

It is also pushing for changes in NICE's system of drug appraisal to ensure all innovative drugs are appraised, including any that were not appraised before 2016, and that their degree of scientific innovation is properly taken into account.

As your constituent, I would be grateful if you could write to Steve Brine MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care, as the Minister with responsibility for cancer, and urge him to work with the ICR and others to take action on the report's recommendations.

You can find out more and read the report in full here: [icr.ac.uk/drugaccess](http://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 report, 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 and 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, get in touch: [stories@icr.ac.uk](mailto:stories@icr.ac.uk)

If you need some 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](http://icr.ac.uk/drugaccess) #DrugAccess #FromPatentToPatient

### **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: <http://www.icr.ac.uk/drugaccess> #DrugAccess #FromPatentToPatient

### **3. Tell your support group**

Telling your support group about the report 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 one and two and help us make as big an impact as possible.

If you would like some copies of the drug report to share at a meeting get in touch at [stories@icr.ac.uk](mailto: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 two if you would like to share the report within any relevant Facebook groups.

### **4. Keep up to date with our progress**

You can keep up to date with all of our blogs, news stories and videos about the drug report 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: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)

Visit our website at [ICR.ac.uk](http://ICR.ac.uk)