Dear [**Insert name**],

As a member of your constituency, I am writing to you to seek your assistance with an urgent matter relating to the decision by NHS England to remove Abraxane from the Cancer Drugs Fund list.

As I’m sure you are aware, Abraxane is the biggest breakthrough for the treatment of advanced pancreatic cancer in over 17 years.

This is a matter incredibly close to my heart.  [**Insert your personal story here**]

While I understand that the CDF have a limited budget and they are under pressure to reduce costs, they must understand how important it is to put Abraxane back on the list. Especially considering how little treatment is available to pancreatic cancer patients.

With this disease, patients and families have very little hope as it is.  Currently, pancreatic cancer is the UK’s fifth biggest cancer killer with the lowest survival rate of all 22 common cancers. Almost 9,000 people are diagnosed with the disease each year, and they are faced with an average survival rate of just four to six months.

Clinical trials of Abraxane in combination with gemcitabine have shown that patients on average will face an extra 2.1 more months survival.

While this may not sound significant, 2.1 months is an average figure – some patients involved in the trial lived more than 2 years.  Abraxane could potentially double the number of patients who live two years or more (in comparison to those receiving gemcitabine alone). That is the potential hope this drug can give patients.

The standard treatment for pancreatic cancer is the use of gemcitabine alone. Only 10% of patients will respond to the treatment, rendering it next to useless for the majority. Far more people respond to Abraxane in combination with gemcitabine, offering the hope that this treatment could really have an impact on improved survival.

I, therefore, feel that the decision to remove Abraxane from the CDF list is unjust and immoral; particularly since this drug is available in the majority of the western world.

**Please help** by contacting David Cameron, Jeremy Hunt, Peter Clark, chair of CDF panel, and Simon Stevens, CEO of NHS England, urgently to explain to them why it’s vital that pancreatic cancer patients have access to Abraxane through the CDF.

**Patrons** Joanna David Hugh Grant Nick Hewer

**Pancreatic Cancer Action** Unit 9, Oakhanger Farm Business Park, Oakhanger, Hampshire, GU35 9JA

t 0303 040 1770 e enquiries@panact.org [**www.pancreaticcanceraction.org**](http://www.pancreaticcanceraction.org/)

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to read this and I would be happy to talk to you about this further either over the phone or in person.

My contact details are: [**Insert details**]

I look forward to your response.

Kindest regards,

[**Insert name**]

**Patrons** Joanna David Hugh Grant Nick Hewer

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