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[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Diagnosis

Alex Sobel

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has plans tackle the misdiagnosis of ME patients; and with whom NICE plans to work to raise awareness of that misdiagnosis among the public, Government officials and NHS staff.

Gillian Keegan

[This answer is the replacement for a previous holding answer]

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is the independent body with responsibility for developing evidence-based guidance for the health and care system. NICE recently updated their guideline on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), aiming to improve awareness and understanding of ME/CFS to ensure earlier and correct diagnoses. The guideline includes specific recommendations on providing information and support to people with ME/CFS and training for health and social care professionals. This training should include material on ME/CFS and its diagnosis and management.

NICE promotes guidance via its website, newsletters and other media. While guidelines are not mandatory, we expect the healthcare system to take them fully into account in designing services that meet the needs of their local population and to work towards their implementation over time. NICE is working with system partners to support the implementation of the guideline for ME/CFS.

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