Results of the ‘Welfare Reforms Questionnaire’ Survey

We recently surveyed 100 consecutive patients attending CF outpatient clinic at Heartlands to give their views on the planned welfare reforms. Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the anonymous survey. The results were very interesting and I will briefly summarize them here.

Out of 100 patients, 96 were currently claiming one or more social security benefits. The most commonly claimed benefits were: Disability Living Allowance (91 patients), Incapacity Benefit (21 patients), Housing Benefit (18 patients), Council Tax Benefit (17 patients), Income Support (14 patients) and Tax Credits (11 patients). As part of the questionnaire, patients were asked ‘How concerned are you about the current welfare reforms?’ with a scale between 1 (not concerned) and 10 (very concerned). The average score for the 100 patients surveyed was 7 out of 10.

This survey therefore confirms that a vast majority of our patients are currently claiming benefits and most are concerned about the impact of the planned welfare reforms. To ensure that this issue is given the attention that it deserves, we have sent these results to the Policy Adviser and Chief Executive of the CF Trust and sent them to the prominent respiratory journal for publication.

We aim to repeat this survey in a year’s time, to find out how much people have been affected by Welfare Reform. We will again be asking for your support with this in clinic. The questionnaires are anonymous and will NOT affect your benefits. The information obtained will help us ensure that we provide appropriate advice in the future. It will also enable us to keep the CF Trust informed about the continuing impact on our patients.

Our Social Worker (Anne Gray) will be very happy to advise if you have questions about your benefits. Please let us know if you want to meet with Anne when attending your next clinic appointment or contact Elaine Chapman, CF Centre Manager (Tel 0121 424 2261, elaine.chapman@heartofengland.nhs.uk)

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