



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01788

Name of petitioner

Alexander Tiffin

Petition title

CMV Screening for Pregnant Women

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce screening for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) for all pregnant women.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I've emailed MSPs and NHS Scotland.

Petition background information

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that can infect people of all ages. Once CMV is in a person's body, it stays there for life.

Congenital CMV is when a baby has been infected before birth. It is one of the leading causes of hearing loss in children and one of the main causes of childhood disability. CMV is the most common infection passed from mother to unborn baby.

The majority of babies born with congenital CMV will not have any symptoms at birth and will not suffer any long term problems. However, two or three babies are affected by the CMV virus every day in the UK – almost 1000 babies every year. CMV Action UK notes congenital CMV is more common than Down's Syndrome and causes more birth defects and childhood deaths than Toxoplasmosis (from cat poo) or Listeriosis (from soft cheese).

The most common disability associated with congenital CMV infection is hearing loss, affecting 15% of all cases. It is progressive for around half of children infected. Therefore, children need to have regular follow-ups with an audiologist to monitor any changes.

If a child is diagnosed with congenital CMV before they are four weeks old they can be treated with antiviral medication. This may help stop hearing loss from getting worse. This would reduce costs on the NHS over time.

Some babies do have more severe symptoms when they are born. Diagnosis in pregnancy can help to ensure that newborn babies are diagnosed quickly and get the

support they need.

Routine testing for CMV would help early intervention at birth, enable treatments to lessen risks and save the NHS money in the long term. A simple blood test is all that is required to save a child's hearing of prevent learning difficulties.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/CMVTesting>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

12 / 02 / 2020

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Do you agree testing for CMV should be a standard procedure during pregnancy?