

Name:

Constituency office address:

\_\_\_\_\_2022

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to ask if you would agree to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask if he will support the proposal made to NHS England by Kidney Cancer UK asking for a NICE Guideline and Quality Standard to be developed for kidney cancer as a matter of urgency.

Kidney cancer has the seventh highest incidence of all cancers, but outcomes (5-year survival rates) in England and the UK are amongst the worst in Europe<sup>1</sup>. NICE has produced guidelines and quality standards for most cancers, but kidney cancer seems to have been overlooked. The only guidelines NICE has produced that include kidney cancer was a small part of more general advice on urological cancers that is now 20 years old and has never been updated.

I have kidney cancer and I am most grateful for the treatment and care I receive from health professionals. They are dedicated to providing the best service they can, but they need support to be able to do so and a NICE guideline and Quality Standard will provide a long-overdue framework within which they can work.

The longer that kidney cancer remains without clinical guidelines, the further it will fall behind other cancers. The initiatives introduced and those planned by the Government to improve services for cancer have little impact on kidney cancer because they are not underpinned by guidelines from NICE.

Kidney Cancer UK has made a proposal for a NICE Guideline and Quality Standard to be commissioned by NHS England. The proposal includes the results of a two year audit of kidney cancer services in England, covering over 18,000 patients. This shows major variations in the care that patients receive in different parts of the country. These variations need to be reduced by developing a NICE guideline and quality standard. The proposal has the support of eight royal colleges and professional bodies.

By asking for the Secretary of State's support, you would be helping me, and others like me, to have the best treatment possible. We know that kidney cancer is one of only seven cancers whose mortality rate is increasing; this was stated in the Chief Medical Officer's Report in 2020.

Please will you help to bring kidney cancer diagnosis, treatment and care up to the standards of other cancers?

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/kidney-cancer/survival#heading-Four> (Last viewed 09-05-22)