

ELLIOT COLBURN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Simon Stevens
Chief Executive
NHS England
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

23 August 2020

Our Ref: EC6352

Dear Sir Simon,

RE: MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound for Essential Tremor (MRgFUS)

I write on behalf of a number of constituents who have contacted me regarding treatment on the NHS for Essential Tremor, and following a virtual roundtable I attended recently organised by Sir Mike Penning MP where we heard from neurosurgeons and patients who had benefited from MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound for Essential Tremor (MRgFUS).

As you will know, MRgFUS uses breakthrough technology to carry out ultraprecise brain surgery. I am aware that the charity the National Tremor Foundation (NTF) - the organisation which works to support people with essential tremor - strongly supports the availability of MRgFUS being an option for NHS patients who are unsuitable for Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) or who need surgery but do not want an invasive procedure, implanted hardware, and lifelong follow-up.

I have constituents for whom the opportunity to be able to access MRgFUS would be life-changing. Following the roundtable, I am told that this treatment 'ticks the boxes': it is one-off, non-invasive, very acceptable to patients, and very effective. When offered a choice in countries where the treatment is already available, many patients prefer it to DBS. For patients who are unsuitable for DBS, the NHS currently offers no effective treatment.

The proposal to commission MRgFUS routinely for medication-refractory essential treatment is an excellent example of innovative, evidence-based technology being taken up by the NHS. A decision to move forward without delay will give patient access to a ground-breaking effective, non-invasive, life-changing procedure at a lower cost than NHS England is currently paying to treat patients with this condition.

My constituents would look forward to seeing its speedy implementation, and I should be grateful for your consideration of these points.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Colburn', written over a horizontal line.

Elliot Colburn
Conservative Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington

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