

My submission is related to item C and D terms of reference

I have had Hep C for about 40 years. I am a non-responder to combination therapy. The only treatment available is the new generation of drugs ie Gilead's Solvaldi. The cost is out of my reach. I offered Gilead \$30,000 but Gilead knocked it back. I have developed Hep C related cirrhosis of the liver. Excellent diet, alternative medicines and fitness DID NOT prevent cirrhosis for me or from escalating cirrhosis. There is nothing else I can do. My viral load is doubling every year -1.5 million last year and 2.5 million this year. I am highly infectious. Without this medicine at an affordable price, I will die. This medicine is a CURE. I find hard to come to terms with the fact that I will be CURED in 3 months if only I had the money. My friend's kidney's have failed due to Hep C, he is on dialysis 3 days a week and on the liver transplant waiting list-COSTLY. I personally know a number of people who have died from either liver failure or liver cancer. They were admissions to hospital for weeks at a time, lots of tests-costly. I also don't have to suffer stigma of having HepC when I am CURED. In conclusion I am paying the ultimate price for health budget restraint.

Sincerely Berenice Pearcy