

Sophie Hibburd

From: Cormacks
Sent: Monday, 16 September 2013 8:28 PM
To: Sophie Hibburd
Subject: Starterr-packs of drugs

Hullo, I am Ian Cormack a GP

I agree that the kick-backs some doctors received from drug sellers in the past was (simply) WRONG & needed to stop. This didn't only apply to docs, but anyone in a decision-making position was subject to bribes.

Even government agencies have handed out gifts. I have known a shire councillor who received beer in the MAIL from a machinery firm and phone-cards from TELECOM before it was privatised. This is all corruption.

I believe starter packs are justified. I have practiced in a remote area for nearly 30 years. Starter packs **are** useful to check tolerability of drugs. Also when the local pharmacy was shut on the weekends, or when the pharmacy had no stock of an item (the pharmacist could only order stuff in the morning so if they had none on Friday afternoon, it couldn't be ordered til Monday morning and took at least a day to come).

Further, I (as the receiver of the starter pack) had no influence over the brands that the chemist kept, so whereas I might have prescribed a brand, the chemist often provided a different brand.

I have no ethical regrets about past receipt of starter packs. I don't agree they have any unwanted ethical issue. I often use the principle "try before you buy" especially with computer programs and I see nothing wrong with this principle.

From Ian Cormack