

Sophie Hibburd

From: VICTORIAN DOCTOR, NAME WITHHELD
Sent: Monday, 16 September 2013 5:53 PM
To: Sophie Hibburd
Subject: proposal to ban samples

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have read an article about a proposal to ban sampling of drugs to doctors. There have been many benefits of these samples for my patients.

In the case of antidepressants, quite often the patient cannot tolerate the medications and buying perhaps a few different ones till they find one that suits them might cause the patient to abandon treatment. It can be quite hard to persuade patients esp males to take anti depressants so having samples makes it easier for them to trial the medications. The cost of having to buy a few different ones can also put up another barrier to the patient commencing medications.

Treating a patient is not just the knowledge but involves the ART of Medicine and samples can sometimes help us in persuading a patient to go on certain therapies that they may not think they need.

Another example is statin therapy. Patients don't have symptoms of hypercholesterolaemia and again might have to try a few different statins before you find one that suits them. Paying \$20-\$30 per script can be a disincentive to continuing trying a few different medications till the patient finds one that suits them.

I work with disadvantaged patients and have supplemented them with some samples to get by.

I would encourage the committee to keep allowing doctors to have samples because in the end it helps patients and may sometimes save lives

your sincerely

Bangholme
victoria