



## News Release

AFA, PO Box 1219, Chew Magna, Bristol, BS40 8WB, UK

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Registered Charity Number 1122442

### **AFA to hold workshop in Parliament to help develop Patient Charter for Atrial Fibrillation**

**Event Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The Atrial Fibrillation Association is holding a workshop at the House of Commons to contribute to the formation of an "AF Patient Charter" which will look at prevention, awareness, management and treatment for the condition.

The workshop on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010, is in response to the Health White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. The paper sets out the Coalition Government's commitment to ensuring greater patient choice and control in healthcare, pledging shared decision making between patients and healthcare professionals with the theme 'nothing about me without me'. It will be hosted by Madeline Moon, MP for Bridgend.

At a time when patients are rightly being called upon to have a greater say in their healthcare, the Atrial Fibrillation Association is calling on the Government to prioritise Atrial Fibrillation (AF), and ensure that there is greater awareness and understanding of this potentially debilitating condition, which will bring about improved detection and diagnosis rates, prompt and appropriate treatment and, when necessary, referral to specialist care. This reducing the burden of AF on the patient, carers and the medical profession.

As part of this campaign, the AFA is seeking the views of patients to develop its AF Patient Charter which will look at prevention, awareness, management and treatment. This will draw on patients' experience of how they have been managed by the NHS, set out minimum standards that all patients should expect, and propose a blueprint of measures to ensure that patient care and improved outcomes are indeed at the heart of decision-making in the new NHS.

Madeline Moon MP will introduce the session, outlining the format of the workshop, along with the purpose of the meeting and the importance of patient involvement in motivating key policy makers to 'rise to the AF challenge'.

The workshop will be facilitated by Jacqui Thornton, the former Health Editor of The Sun and will consider how other health conditions have been prioritised, further helping to develop a specialised charter for AF.

This will be followed by an open discussion about how AF can build upon best practice, promote improved understanding both of the condition and related serious health risks and ensure the Government prioritise the management of Atrial Fibrillation. The meeting will be transcribed and key issues and recommendations raised during the meeting will be included in the 'AF Patient Charter' which will be sent to all MPs.



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Although this 'AF Patient Charter' will help to encourage the Government to prioritise AF, it will also be used as a tool to help patients and their families get the necessary information to take an active role in the management of AF and gain a better awareness of what they can expect from their treatment and care.

### Editor's Notes:

1. More information can be found at [http://www.atrialfibrillationassociation.org.uk/files/file/Misc/AF\\_Patient\\_Charter\\_Workshop\\_proposals\[1\].pdf](http://www.atrialfibrillationassociation.org.uk/files/file/Misc/AF_Patient_Charter_Workshop_proposals[1].pdf)
2. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27th October 2010, 3.00pm to 5.00pm in Room Q at the House of Commons** .
3. For more information, contact Jo Jerrome at [jo@atrialfibrillation.org.uk](mailto:jo@atrialfibrillation.org.uk)