

Script Outline For MLA Meetings

1. Introduce yourself and the person(s) with you. REMEMBER – it is important that you always take at least one other person with you. Make sure to note that you live in the riding. If asked if you represent anyone other than yourself, you can mention that you're part of a group of patients and caregivers concerned about access to medications, particularly medications for multiple myeloma.

2. Explain that you are there to discuss a decision by Health Canada some time ago (October, 2008) to approve the medication Revlimid for the treatment of multiple myeloma. Mention that you will be asking your MLA to write a letter to the Minister of Health about this issue and that you have with you a draft for their consideration.

3. Key Messages:
 - a. Over a year ago, Health Canada approved the use of Revlimid for multiple myeloma, an incurable form of cancer.
 - b. A life-threatening cancer of the plasma cells, multiple myeloma is nevertheless a treatable disease.
 - c. Medications are an important cornerstone of treatment for people with multiple myeloma, and Revlimid is a new vital treatment that must be made accessible to patients in Manitoba.

4. Tell your MLA a brief version of your personal story and the link you have to multiple myeloma. Try to include the importance medications have played in your experience.

5. Core Facts – select and mention some of the core facts around multiple myeloma

6. **Ask – I am asking you to write a letter to the Minister of Health requesting that she immediately provide Revlimid as a choice to patients and their health care providers in Manitoba through public funding**
7. Dialogue – press your MLA until they agree to write the letter and ask them if they would like a copy of the prepared draft you brought. Remember to ask to be copied on the letter that your MLA sends.
8. Conclusion – thank your MLA for their time and for agreeing to write the letter. Let them know that you will be following up in the coming days and weeks.