

Patient Advocacy and the British Parliament

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Venous thromboembolism remains the commonest avoidable cause of hospital death. Despite nearly four decades of intense research activity which has demonstrated that pharmacological thromboprophylaxis is not only highly effective but safe in preventing fatal thromboembolism in the postoperative period, many patients who could benefit from thromboprophylaxis fail to be considered for it. An enquiry undertaken by the United Kingdom House of Commons Health Select Committee identified VTE to be a major issue for The National Health Service, making a number of important recommendations which were subsequently accepted by the Government. A group constituted by the Department of Health is currently working on developing a national strategy for implementation of VTE best practice in the UK