

# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



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## Clinical Commissioning Groups Withdraw Thyroid Medications

The results of the Hypothyroid Patient Experiences survey, run by Thyroid UK for the Scottish Government as part of a listening exercise showed how hypothyroid patients were being refused medications which many find relieve their symptoms.

Research shows that up to 16% of patients find that the standard medication, levothyroxine, does not relieve their symptoms. Some patients find the addition of liothyronine (T3) improves their symptoms.

Thyroid UK hears from people every day who have had their medication withdrawn even though they have felt very well for years on this. Doctors and endocrinologists are being ordered not to prescribe these vital medications and doctors are being informed of how to switch patients from liothyronine to levothyroxine only.

**Thyroid UK is raising awareness of this and other problems patients face by holding a Purple Mufty Day on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Please join us and go purple for thyroid patients.**

### **About Thyroid UK**

*Thyroid UK is a charitable company that provides information and resources to promote **effective** diagnosis and **appropriate** treatment for people with both diagnosed and undiagnosed thyroid disorders in the UK.*

*They also conduct surveys on relevant topics in order to inform certain interested parties of up to date patient opinion.*

**For further information contact:** Lyn Mynott, Chief Executive, Thyroid UK on 01255 820407 or email: [lyn.mynott@thyroiduk.org](mailto:lyn.mynott@thyroiduk.org)

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### **Note to the Editor:**

**Thyroid Awareness Week 2016 is from 15th October to 21st October.**

Hypothyroidism affects 2% of women causing symptoms such as fatigue, weight gain, hair loss and depression. A new research paper shows that patients on levothyroxine do not convert as well as healthy patients - *Is a Normal TSH Synonymous with "Euthyroidism" in Levothyroxine Monotherapy?* <http://press.endocrine.org/doi/pdf/10.1210/jc.2016-2660>

Our **awareness campaign** this year, **Purple Mufty Day**, is to encourage people to wear purple, take a photo of it, place it onto Facebook or Twitter and share amongst their family and friends. Go here for more info: <http://tinyurl.com/z4s3wmw>

"Providing information and resources to promote **effective** diagnosis and **appropriate** treatment for people with thyroid disorders in the UK"