**Sample Letter: Hospital or GP, Medication**

Currently all medication is legally required to have been tested on animals. That is something we must all work to change at a government policy level. Most vegans would agree that in the meantime we should take the medication we need. Medication can also contain animal ingredients, for example milk or lactose in tablets or gelatine capsules. Where there are animal-free alternatives we have the right to request these as an aspect of our legal right to live according to our vegan conviction. This sample letter addressed that situation.

Dear [GP / Sister of ward]

I am writing to ask [name of GP practice / hospital] to consider my request for an alternative to [standard issue medication] as it is not suitable for vegans, as it [contains gelatine / lactose].

Veganism is a way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation and killing of animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. I live my life according to this moral philosophy. It is against my fundamental beliefs to consume things that contain animal ingredients.

My right to live according to my fundamental conviction that it is wrong to use and kill non-human animals is protected under human rights law and equality law. This means that service providers have an obligation not to interfere with my right to live according to my conviction, and to avoid any discrimination or harassment on the grounds of veganism. For more information about the legal rights of vegans please see: <https://goveganworld.com/vegan-rights/>

In this context, my legal rights mean that [name of GP / hospital] must consider my reasonable request for an animal-free version of my medication and provide it to me, if it exists, unless they can show that providing it would be so burdensome or disruptive that it would have a significant negative impact on the provision of health care generally. I have looked into alternatives and have found [refer to alternative if possible – if not sure if there is an alternative ask them to confirm if there is an alternative which does not contain anything taken from an animal].

Moreover, as a public entity [name of GP / hospital] is bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires them to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equal opportunity and foster good relations, including by taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups.

I would be very happy to discuss this and provide any more information that you may require.

I look forward to hearing from you.   
  
Yours sincerely

[your name]