

<b>Decision Support Unit Project Specification Form</b>	
<b>Project Number</b>	
Project title	Assessing technologies that are not cost effective at a zero price.
Synopsis of the technical issue	<p>In a recent appraisal of a new drug (pertuzumab) in metastatic breast cancer the appraisal committee did not recommend the technology because the incremental cost effectiveness ratio (ICER) was in excess of £125,000 per quality-adjusted life-year (QALY).</p> <p>The manufacturer had indicated that using plausible assumptions (those preferred by the evidence review group) there was no price at which pertuzumab would be cost effective (it was not cost effective at zero price). The issue driving this relatively high ICER appeared to be that the drug was given in combination with another drug (also the comparator) and any additional progression-free survival was accompanied by the costs of both pertuzumab and the comparator drug. In view of the fact that the technology was associated with substantial benefits in terms of both progression free and overall survival, the Institute's Guidance Executive decided not to issue the FAD pending further exploration of the issue.</p> <p>The DSU is asked to explore the circumstances in which clinically effective technologies are not cost effective even at a zero price. In the light of this exploration, DSU will consider the usual rules for assessing cost-effectiveness and their appropriateness or otherwise in these circumstances,.</p>
Question(s) to be answered by DSU	DSU is asked to consider real and/or hypothetical examples in which a technology is not cost effective at zero price and to describe the factors that contribute to this. DSU is also asked to consider whether, in relation to these situations, there are circumstances in which it might be justifiable to depart from the usual range of acceptable ICERs, or otherwise adapt the methods of assessing cost effectiveness.

How will the DSU address these questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A review of previous NICE appraisals where technologies have been found to be not cost effective at zero price and consideration of the factors that contributed to this.</li> <li>2. Consideration of those situations where similar factors are likely to also occur. Literature search for any previous discussion of this issue in the health economic literature.</li> <li>3. Discussion of any alternative approaches to assessing the cost effectiveness of clinically effective technologies that are not cost effective at any positive price.</li> </ol>
Exact analyses required	Review of relevant NICE appraisals, literature review and discussion.
DSU deliverables/outcomes (e.g. report, statement, etc)	Discussion paper