

Dear Consultee/Commentator

## Health Technology Appraisal

### **NICE Technology Appraisal for adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis after failure of a previous TNF- $\alpha$ inhibitor**

Further to our letter to you of 20 Nov 08 with the appeal panel decision, I can confirm that the Department of Health and the Institute have agreed that a new referral is not required to restart the above appraisal, because sequential use of these drugs is covered within the remit for the original appraisal.

The Institute has decided that a new appraisal of the above TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitors should be scheduled into the work programme and combined with a review of technology appraisal guidance 126 (rituximab) and 141 (abatacept). These reviews will therefore be brought forward, so that a multiple technology appraisal can be carried out on the use of adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, abatacept and rituximab for rheumatoid arthritis after the failure of a TNF inhibitor.

We will issue a draft scope for consultation in the next few weeks.

If you have any queries regarding this appraisal, please contact the project manager, Jeremy Powell ([Jeremy.powell@nice.org.uk](mailto:Jeremy.powell@nice.org.uk)). I apologise if some of the email addresses used are out-of-date. We will revise our contacts list for the draft scope consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Dr. Elisabeth George**

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