

4 July 2011

**Desferrioxamine, deferiprone and deferasirox for the treatment of chronic iron overload in people with thalassaemia**

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA/Wave22/14>

Dear Consultees and Commentators,

Following the Consultee Information Meeting NICE contacted the Department of Health regarding the issues discussed at that meeting and the questions raised regarding the value a NICE technology appraisal would bring.

These issues included:

- concern that the regulatory authorities are not sufficiently confident about the safety of combination therapies to enable NICE to proceed with including combination therapies in a technology appraisal
- heterogeneity between the types of combination therapies currently used in clinical practice
- currently rapidly emerging evidence on the safety and efficacy of combination therapies

The Department of Health has agreed that this appraisal should be suspended whilst a final decision is taken on whether to remove this appraisal from the NICE work programme, or whether to review of the need for NICE guidance in this area to be considered in two years and if so, what particular type of NICE guidance might be most appropriate.

We are therefore suspending this appraisal.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kind regards,

Jeremy

**Jeremy Powell**

Technology Appraisal Project Manager

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

MidCity Place | 71 High Holborn | London WC1V 6NA | United Kingdom

Tel: 44 (0)20 7045 2248 | Fax: 44 (0)20 7061 9830

Web: <http://nice.org.uk>