



# The Royal College of Pathologists

## **NICE HTA - Docetaxel for the treatment of hormone-refractory metastatic prostate cancer**

### **Comments on the Appraisal Consultation Document and Evaluation Report**

The only comment I had regarding this health technology assessment was a correction of fact concerning the importance of Gleason grading.

In paragraph 2 of page 30, it is stated that "the most important prognostic factor is the growth pattern or grade of the tumour assessed using the Gleason scoring system." This is true for hormone naive prostate cancer i.e. at presentation in untreated patients, but it is not true once tumours have metastasised and been treated by and become refractory to hormones.

This does not affect the health technology assessment as such.

**Dr Patricia Harnden**  
**Consultant Histopathologist**