

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
Gemcitabine for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

With a membership of over 390,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

Response to the Appraisal Consultation Document.

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the invitation to review this consultation document and considers that the conclusion of the Appraisal Committee is reasonable.

We agree that Gemcitabine could be effective for some women with secondary breast cancer. However, feel that as with all combination treatments it is necessary to consider the toxicity and the fact that other drugs may not be able to be used at a later stage.

With respect to paragraph 4.7 on the issues of funding for high cost drugs and access for patients, we recognise that this is wider than this consultation process but perhaps needs to be considered in future technology appraisals and reviews.

We support the proposed recommendations for further research.