

4 December 2006



Dr Carole Longson
Director
Centre for Health Technology Evaluation
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
MidCity Place
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Dear Carole

(1) Appraisal Consultation Document: Pemetrexed for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer

(2) Appraisal Consultation Document: Erlotinib for non-small-cell lung cancer

Thank you for the above ACDs. sanofi-aventis wish to submit the following comments in response to the consultations:

(1) Pemetrexed

sanofi-aventis agrees with the conclusions and recommendations within this ACD.

The head-to-head registrational trial comparing pemetrexed vs. Taxotere® (docetaxel) in second line NSCLC found neither a survival benefit or a quality of life benefit for patients (Hanna *et al.* 2004. Journal of Clinical Oncology, 22:1589-1587).

Given the additional purchase cost of pemetrexed, and the absence of any patient benefit (vs. docetaxel), the cost effectiveness calculations suggest the availability of pemetrexed on the NHS in England and Wales does not represent an effective use of already stretched drug purchasing budgets.

(2) Erlotinib

sanofi-aventis agrees with the initial conclusions and recommendations within this ACD.

We also agree that further information may support the recommendation "[...] in patients who have previously received docetaxel and whose disease has subsequently relapsed."

Yours sincerely

Senior Manager – HTA
sanofi-aventis UK