

Mr Simon Reeve
[REDACTED]

Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry Group
Department of Health
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds LS2 7U

6th August 2007

Dear Mr Reeve

**Single Technology Appraisal for Velcade® (bortezomib)
in the treatment of relapsed multiple myeloma**

We confirm that Janssen-Cilag Ltd will operate a VELCADE Response Scheme (VRS), in conjunction with a recommendation from NICE, on the basis that the cost of treatment for patients who demonstrate a complete or partial response, determined by levels of serum M-protein, after four cycles of therapy will be borne by the NHS. This scheme will remain in place until the next NICE review of VELCADE for multiple myeloma.

The company will rebate the cost of up to four cycles of treatment, for patients who show no response or a minor response to therapy.

This scheme, developed to offer a unique approach to a very specific set of circumstances in the UK, will also be offered to the NHS for patients in Wales and Northern Ireland and we look forward to rapid implementation of the NICE guidance, when it becomes available.

However, we wish to formally record our disappointment that under the version of the scheme within the FAD, patients who demonstrate a minor response after four cycles of therapy will have treatment withdrawn and thus be denied the chance to achieve their best response with further cycles of treatment.

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cc Ms Carole Longson

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