

**Pemetrexed disodium for the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma**

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**Royal College of Nursing**

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**Introduction**

With a membership of over 370,000 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.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence to inform the development of health technology appraisal guidance on the use of pemetrexed disodium for the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma.

**Evidence submission**

The epidemiological references used on page 12 of the protocol and within the Final Scope of the guidance (attached as appendix A to the consultation documents) are different, resulting in different information.

Cancer BACUP and individual cancer networks hold a wealth of evidence and information that would be helpful to the development of this guidance. It is, therefore, presumed that they would be approached to provide pemetrexed literature as they do for all other chemotherapy agents.

There is some concern that currently some oncologists do not seek to use Alimta as it is not their treatment of choice. Cost in some part influences this. Will this technology appraisal force their hand a little despite some being of the opinion that there is sufficient evidence for using other drugs regimes off -licence? Also how will healthcare professionals handle the conflict this may create between patients who want Alimta and clinicians who prefer to use other regimes? We would recommend that these queries be considered during the critical review of this technology.

It is our view that the comments/questions raised above fit in with the implementation issues regarding the use of this health technology.