

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 April 2009 14:36
To: David Bevan
Subject: RE: NICE APPRAISAL: Rituximab for first line chronic lymphocytic leukaemia - ACD

To David Bevan, re; - STA ACD on Rituximab for first line chronic lymphocytic leukaemia

Dear David

with reference to the preliminary recommendations as laid out in sections 1.1, and 1.2 of the ACD; - Rituximab for first line chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL).

Leukaemia CARE is very pleased to see that rituximab is being recommended for first line use in the treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia in combination with fludarabine and cyclophosphamide as an option for people for whom fludarabine in combination with cyclophosphamide is considered appropriate.

Further more we feel that under the general headings of; -

- 1) Do we consider that all of the relevant evidence has been taken into account?
- 2) Do we consider that the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness are reasonable interpretations of the evidence, and that the preliminary views on the resource impact and implications for the NHS are appropriate?
- 3) Do we consider that the provisional recommendations of the Appraisal Committee are sound and constitute a suitable basis for the preparation of guidance to the NHS?
- 4) Are there any equality related issues that need special consideration that are not covered in the ACD?

we feel that these questions have all been answered satisfactorily.

As a general comment in addition to these, we would like to add that we are

aware that physicians treating patients with CLL would also like the option of using rituximab in combination with chlorambucil on certain specific occasions, and that this option is specifically excluded here. There is an on-going trial looking at this particular combination that is due to finish in September 2009. Once sufficient robust data has been accumulated from this study (should be available within a year of the study concluding), we (Leukaemia CARE)

would like to encourage NICE to review this HTA with a view to including R-chlorambucil as another treatment option.

Very best regards

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Leukaemia CARE

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