

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Topotecan for the treatment of recurrent carcinoma of the cervix

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

With a membership of over 400,000 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. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) of the technology appraisal of Topotecan for the treatment of recurrent carcinoma of the cervix.

The RCN's response to the four questions on which comments were requested is set out below:

i) **Has the relevant evidence has been taken into account?**

The evidence considered seems comprehensive.

ii) **Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence, and are the preliminary views on the resource impact and implications for the NHS appropriate?**

This seems appropriate.

- iii) **Are the provisional recommendations of the Appraisal Committee sound and do they constitute a suitable basis for the preparation of guidance to the NHS?**

Nurses working in this area of health have reviewed the recommendations of the Appraisal Committee and do not have any other comments to add.

The RCN would welcome guidance to the NHS on the use of this health technology.

- iv) **Are there any equality related issues that need special consideration that are not covered in the ACD?**

None that we are aware of at this stage. We would however, ask that any guidance issued should show that equality issues have been considered and that the guidance demonstrates an understanding of issues concerning patients' age, faith, race, gender, disability, cultural and sexuality where appropriate.