

22 September 2009.

Dear Dr Longson,

Re: Health Technology Appraisal: Use of tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNFa) inhibitors (adalimumab, and infliximab [review] for Crohn's disease. Appraisal consultation document Sept 2009.

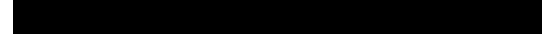
We would be very grateful if you could also consider this supplementary letter in addition to the response in our letter dated 9 September.

Since writing that response there has been a meeting of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology. At that meeting there was concern that infliximab and adalimumab do not end up with equivalent support in the NICE appraisal. These two treatments are generally regarded as of equivalent efficacy (no head-to-head comparisons having been performed). We realise that the current differential between these treatments in the NICE appraisal is based on the differing cost/QALY analyses but would urge the committee to consider some change in wording that would ***allow first-line use of either drug according to relative costings at the time of first prescription.*** This would then allow for any subsequent changes in pricing which might affect the current apparent discrepancy in cost-effectiveness.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

  
(on behalf of Royal College of Physicians)

  
(on behalf of British Society of Gastroenterology)