National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (Part-review of TA75 and TA106)

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was invited to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) for peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (Part-review of TA75 and TA106).

Nurses caring for Hepatitis C patients reviewed the documents on behalf of the RCN.

Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review this document. 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?**

 These seem reasonable and 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. The provisional recommendations seem a suitable

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basis for guidance to the NHS. There are no further comments to add to the document at this stage.

The RCN would welcome guidance to the NHS on the part review of the existing guidance 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.

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