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Kate Moore
Technology Appraisal Project Manager
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

11th December 2010

Dear Kate,

Response to the second Appraisal Committee Document – Erlotinib for the maintenance treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer

This letter is a response, on behalf of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

We are disappointed that the recently issued second ACD on the use of Erlotinib monotherapy for the maintenance treatment of non-small cell lung cancer, reveals that the Committee is minded not to recommend this therapy.

We believe that the Committee may have overestimated the numbers of pancreatic cancer patients suitable for Erlotinib, this overestimation having made Erlotinib ineligible within NICE's 'End of Life' Guidance criteria. Furthermore, we understand that the manufacturer will be submitting detail of the patient characteristics in the SATURN study, showing them to be representative of the general population. We hope that the implications of these observations will be considered by the Committee.

Once again, we remind the Committee of the overall poor prognosis and low survival rates for this patient group. Even relatively small improvements in survival and quality of life, as compared with the current established therapy, are of real importance to patients. We hope, that during its further deliberations, the Appraisal Committee will be mindful of this and take it in to account.

If you require further information please contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]