

Direct Tel: [REDACTED]

The Hamlet  
Hornbeam Park  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
HG2 8RE

Website: [www.northyorkshireandyork.nhs.uk](http://www.northyorkshireandyork.nhs.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Dear Jeremy Powell

**Re: NICE STA: Multiple sclerosis (relapsing-remitting) - fingolimod - ACD**

The commissioning of neurology services is carried out by Yorkshire & Humber Specialist Commissioning Group which also includes policies relating to drug treatments for multiple sclerosis. The present policy can be found on their website: <http://www.yhscg.nhs.uk/Downloads/Policy/DMT%20criteria.doc>.

This includes the prescribing criteria for beta interferon, glatiramer acetate and natalizumab.

These are the comments provided by NHS North Yorkshire and York for the above ACD.

- Has all of the relevant evidence been taken into account?

Yes.

- Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence?

Yes, but it is unfortunate that the manufacturer could not provide evidence to allow a comparison to Natalizumab for patients with rapidly evolving severe relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis. It would have been useful to evaluate the clinical and cost effectiveness of fingolimod in this cohort of patients.

- Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS?

Yes.



Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.