

CONFIDENTIAL

4 May 2012

Prof Carole Longson  
Director, Health Technology Evaluation Centre  
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence  
Level 1A, City Tower  
Piccadilly Plaza  
Manchester  
M1 6NA



Quarry House  
Quarry Hill  
Leeds  
LS2 7UE

Tel: 0113 254 5000

Dear Carole

**Patient Access Scheme proposal – vemurafenib – advanced melanoma**

I am writing to confirm the Department of Health's position on the Patient Access Scheme (PAS) arrangements that have been proposed by Roche for Zelboraf (vemurafenib) for the treatment of BRAF V600 mutation positive, unresectable metastatic melanoma. The proposal is for a simple discount scheme, with the discount applied to original invoices for purchases of vemurafenib for NHS patients.

I understand that Roche has proposed the simple discount PAS on the condition that the level of discount offered through the scheme should remain confidential and should not be published in final NICE guidance.

The Department is content for the PAS proposal to be considered in the relevant appraisal, with the level of discount remaining confidential.

NICE must, of course, be satisfied that sufficient information can be communicated to stakeholders to explain an appraisal recommendation. In this regard, what constitutes a sufficient level of transparency is a matter for the Institute to determine in developing its guidance. In addition, the NHS must have access to the discount price when final NICE guidance is made available, so Trusts and commissioners are able to properly account for the PAS.

Yours sincerely

Simon Reeve  
Head of Clinical and Cost Effectiveness,  
Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry Group