



supporting blind and
partially sighted people

22 October 2012

Meindert Boysen, Programme Director
Centre for Health Technology Evaluation
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
Midcity Place
71 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6NA

Dear Meindert,

Re: Ranibizumab for the treatment of Diabetic Macular Oedema (rapid review of TA 237) Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD)

We are delighted that NICE has issued positive draft guidance recommending Lucentis for the treatment of Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO) in patients with a central retinal thickness of 400 micrometres or more.

RNIB is also pleased that it states patients currently receiving Lucentis who do not have a central retinal thickness of 400 micrometres will be able to continue treatment until they and their clinician consider it appropriate to stop.

We remain concerned, however, that patients with a central retinal thickness of less than 400 micrometres will not be able to access Lucentis for DMO. Clinicians tell us that there will be situations where standard care is not appropriate for patients in this group and that Lucentis would provide an alternative treatment option.

Overall the decision is a step in the right direction and a decision that we hope will eventually be extended to reach all patients with DMO.

RNIB has only made comments on two of the consultation questions posed by the Committee:

Has all of the relevant evidence been taken into account?

RNIB is not aware of any new evidence.

We welcome the fact that the Committee recognises the substantial negative impact DMO has on quality of life, especially in relation to loss of independence and employment.

We are also pleased that the Committee acknowledges that diabetes is managed with self-care and that visual impairment can affect a person's ability to manage their own condition.

Are there any aspects of the recommendations that need particular consideration to ensure we avoid unlawful discrimination against any group of people on the grounds of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity?

We are not aware of any discrimination caused by NICE's draft recommendations.

We would like to thank NICE once again for the opportunity to comment on this ACD.

Yours sincerely,

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