British Association of Dermatologists
Therapy & Guidelines sub-committee

Comments on the NICE Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) for the Single Technology Appraisal (STA) on ipilimumab for previously untreated advanced (unresectable or metastatic) melanoma

As the effect of ipilimumab is slow in onset it is logical not to wait until patients have reached the most desperate stages of advanced disease before commencing therapy. For this reason, we believe that the opportunity to use ipilimumab 3mg/Kg as a first line treatment should be offered rather than restricting its availability to use as a second line treatment in patients who have failed dacarbazine treatment which in any event, appears to have only a borderline therapeutic effect. The rationale for the proposed policy of limiting treatment in this way is very difficult for patients to understand or for physicians to explain.