Response:

Review of NICE Technology Appraisal guidance 196

Imatinib for the adjuvant treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours

This is a joint response from Sarcoma UK and the British Sarcoma Group, following discussions and agreement between representatives of each organisation.

Sarcoma UK is the only charity in the UK focusing on all types of sarcoma. The British Sarcoma Group is the association of the specialist clinicians, nurses and supporting professionals who treat patients with sarcoma in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

We have responded below to the Appraisal Committee's request for comments on the guidance for imatinib for the adjuvant treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours.

1. **Has all of the relevant evidence been taken into account?**
   We are not aware of other evidence within the scope of the appraisal.

2. **Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence?**
   We think the clinical and cost effectiveness summaries and conclusions are appropriate.

3. **Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS?**
   The recommendations are a suitable base for guidance to the NHS. We believe that the adoption of the Meittenen & Lasota model for analysing patients at high risk is currently appropriate but further research is underway and may develop a more accurate future alternative. We would like to see the Committee's final recommendations include the suggestion that potential and advising commissioners consult a professional consensus meeting as a route forward for modifying the choice of risk

assessment model. Sarcoma UK and the British Sarcoma Group would be prepared to organise and fund such a meeting to ensure its independence. We would take the advice of our recognised GIST specialist professional members on timing such a move.

4. **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?**
   None of which we are aware.

Joint submission from:

Professor Ian Judson (Royal Marsden Hospital; member of Board of Trustees) for the British Sarcoma Group

for Sarcoma UK

Final
1 July 2014