Dear Kate

Comment form [redacted] of the Foundation for Liver Research is as follows:-

Hepatic Encephalopathy (maintenance treatment) – Rifaximin (ID496)

I cannot comment on the cost effective analysis that has been carried out on this drug as I do not understand the modelling and calculations (ICER) involved. What I can comment on is my own clinical experience of Rifaximin in patients who suffer from encephalopathy. The drug in my view is a very worthwhile addition to the therapeutic armamentarium for hepatic encephalopathy as the current agent, Lactulose, is often not taken by the patients because of its unpleasant side-effects. Rifaximin, in my experience of treating both private and insured patients with the drug, and my experience now is substantial, is that it is highly effective, with all the benefits as reported in the initial controlled trial of its use in many subsequent papers from the States and Europe. I would therefore disagree profoundly with the key conclusion of the appraisal committee's report.