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From The Registrar
[redacted]

10 December 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Consultees & Commentators: (Urticaria (chronic spontaneous, previously treated) – omalizumab) [707] – ACD consultation

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) plays a leading role in the delivery of high quality patient care by setting standards of medical practice and promoting clinical excellence. We provide physicians in the United Kingdom and overseas with education, training and support throughout their careers. As an independent body representing over 30,000 Fellows and Members worldwide, we advise and work with government, the public, patients and other professions to improve health and healthcare.

The RCP is grateful for the opportunity to respond to the above ACD consultation. Our experts in allergy wish to make the following comments:

Overall, we believe that Omalizumab is safe and effective - sometimes very effective. Allied to this, it can be rapidly determined as to whether an individual responds to treatment. As such, our experts believe that it should be available for those patients, with severe disease, who have had the condition for some time and which is unresponsive to the following, generally unsuccessful, treatments:

- a combination of high dose H1 blockers, H2 blockers and LRTRA
- tranexamic acid and low salicylate diets

Some believe that Omalizumab should be tried before immunosuppressants - which they consider potentially life threatening and rarely appropriate for a condition which is generally self-limiting and carries no risk of mortality or permanent harm.

Our experts believe that Omalizumab should only be available from specialist allergy and immunology centres or dermatology centres with sub-specialist expertise where a full assessment has been carried out.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]
Registrar