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[redacted], Centre for Health Technology Evaluation
c/o [redacted]

[redacted]

3 December 2013

Dear [redacted]

Re: Assessment report: Lung cancer (non-small cell) - erlotinib & gefitinib (post chemotherapy) (rev TA162, TA175) [ID620]

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 29,000 Fellows and Members worldwide, we advise and work with government, the public, patients and other professions to improve health and healthcare.

I write on behalf of the NCRI/RCP/RCR/ACP/JCCO who work together to produce joint submissions to NICE oncological consultations. We are grateful for the opportunity to respond and would like to make the following comments.

- P 59 – *'On progression, EGFR M+ patients are not re-treated with an EGFR-TKI and therefore receive docetaxel in line with current NICE guidance.29 The AG is aware that some patients in the UK NHS are given platinum doublet chemotherapy after first-line EGFR-TKI, however, this treatment pathway is not standard UK clinical practice'*. Our experts strongly disagree - platinum doublet is accepted as standard 1st line chemotherapy (overall 2nd line treatment) if the individual is fit for treatment. Docetaxel is not the standard treatment in this situation.

- A further issue is that if clinicians are unable to prescribe erlotinib then there will be fewer NSCLC patients receiving therapy in the second line setting. This would be clearly disadvantageous to them if we consider the BR21 data of all comers with were not fit for intravenous chemotherapy.

- It is not possible to make informed comment on a document which has several sections blanked out. We assume this is to do with confidentiality and manufacturers submissions and understand that NICE are looking at ways for all consultees to see such comments in the future.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]