BAUN
BRITISH ASSOCIATION of UROLOGICAL NURSES

6th June 2014

Re:National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Appraisal documentation

Abiraterone for Metastatic Hormone – relapsed Prostate Cancer not Previously Treated with Chemotherapy

We feel this recommendation is disappointing as it drastically reduces the choices available to men with metastatic hormone relapsed prostate cancer – particularly for those who are not clinically fit enough for or would choose not to have chemotherapy and potentially impacts on the Qof L at this time.

In our experience, Abiraterone in this setting gives men choice of treatment options. As reported in the document, patients generally tolerate the side effects of Abiraterone well as it has significantly less side effects than chemotherapy and therefore maintains their quality of life, for many months or often longer.

Some men do not choose to have chemotherapy, and some wish to delay having chemotherapy and the consequent side effects and frequent hospital visits for as long as possible. For these men, this recommendation leaves them with no choice or active treatments at this time: a situation that is psychologically distressing as well as potentially putting men into a position of feeling coerced into a treatment that is not acceptable to them.

Given that these men would be able to access Abiraterone after chemotherapy, there is little point in restricting treatment choices as to whether or when this drug is used in their treatment pathway.

We believe that this decision should be based on patient choice and clinical judgement according the individual patient's needs and circumstances.

We are also disappointed that the manufacturers were unable to fully disclose their research findings for consideration in this appraisal.