Dear Sir/madam,

Many thanks for sending me The Appraisal Consultation Document following the Single Technology Appraisal for Degarelix.

The patients that I represent will be pleased that the committee acknowledged the rapidity with which Degarelix acts and that it does not cause a problem with a testosterone flare and has reduced cardiovascular events when compared with the agonists.

I believe the patients will be disappointed that the committee have only recommended the use of this drug when a patient has impending spinal compression from metastatic disease (a relatively unusual problem) but have as yet failed to recognise its quick action to relieve pain from skeletal metastases (a more common problem) and its value in relieving impending ureteric and urethral obstruction. (Urethral obstruction from a malignant prostate may otherwise need prostatic surgery with a three or four day hospital stay, possible surgical complications and added expense.)

Patients would like the committee to consider adding these indications to the guidelines for the use of this drug.

Yours faithfully,

David Baxter-Smith
Prostate Cancer Support Federation.