

By email: _____

Honorary Secretary
British Thoracic Society
17 Doughty Street
London
WC1N 2PL

3 July 2017

Dear

Appeal against Final Appraisal Determination (FAD): Pirfenidone for treating idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (Review of TA 282) dated June 2017.

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2017 addressed to Andy McKeon and lodging an appeal on behalf of the British Thoracic Society against the above FAD. I have taken over from Mr McKeon as vice chair with responsibility for appeals.

Introduction

The Institute's appeal procedures provide for an initial scrutiny of points that an appellant wishes to raise, to confirm that they are at least arguably within the permitted grounds of appeal ("valid"). The permitted grounds of appeal are:

- 1(a) NICE has failed to act fairly,¹ or
- 1(b) NICE has exceeded powers;²
- (2) the recommendation is unreasonable in the light of the evidence submitted to NICE

This letter sets out my initial view of the points of appeal you have raised: principally whether they fall within any of the grounds of appeal, or whether further clarification is required of any point. Only if I am satisfied that your points contain the necessary information and arguably fall within any one of the grounds will your appeal be referred to the Appeal Panel.

Initial View

Ground 2

¹ formerly ground 1

² Formerly ground 3

2.1 The Appraisal Committee's refusal to consider the evidence for efficacy of pirfenidone in IPF since the time of the original TA, and the weakness of the health economic argument for choosing an FVC threshold of 80%

A valid appeal point.

As I agree that your appeal point is valid it will be passed to an appeal panel for consideration. There is no need for further correspondence at this stage.

You have requested a written consideration of your appeal. Another appellant has submitted grounds of appeal and these will be considered at an oral hearing. The appeal panel will be happy to consider your letter at the same time as the oral hearing, asking the appraisal committee to respond to it and then reaching a determination. Alternatively if you wish you or a representative of the BTS will be very welcome to attend the hearing and make an oral submission in addition to your letter. NICE will contact you with details of the hearing and it would be helpful if you could say then whether you want the panel to consider your letter alone, or whether as there will be a hearing in any event you would like to take part.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rosie Benneyworth
Vice Chair
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence