

# BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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From: Di Tolfree (*Executive Secretary*)

Dr Carole Longson  
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National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence  
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Dear Dr Longson

Thank you for showing us the assessment report produced by the Southampton Health Technology Centre assessment group for the appraisal of treatment of mild chronic hepatitis C. It seemed to us that the definition of 'watchful waiting' could be more precisely defined. Presumably the frequency of liver biopsies undertaken during this period and the threshold levels of histological progression deemed to be sufficient to trigger antiviral therapy would have cost implications. It may be informative to see what those cost implications might be depending upon the highs and lows set for both frequency of biopsy and threshold for treatment.

Yours faithfully



Prof. E. Elias.  
President.