Mr Christopher Feinmann
Project Manager
National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)
Peter House
Oxford Street
MANCHESTER M1 5AN

Your ref:

Our Ref: [redacted]

17 June 2008

Dear Mr Feinmann

RE: HTA Appraisal; Bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib and temsirolimus for renal cell carcinoma.

Thank you for continuing to involve Kidney Research UK upon this consultation as it progresses through to the next stage. We have now reviewed the Assessment Report for the above appraisal with both our medical advisors (with specific expertise) and our patient advisors.

The following points were raised during our review of the report and should be considered by the Appraisal Committee at their 9th July meeting:

a) As stated, we agree that the report has some limitation. Cost effectiveness studies are based on limited or preliminary data and do not cover the whole scope of the treatment. However, the conclusion that these are expensive drugs is inescapable.
b) Therefore, the conclusion that the cost effectiveness of these drugs is zero is disputed and it should be considered how much longer a patient will live using these drugs. Would it be possible for the patient to pay a 'top-up' fee to cover the costs to use those drugs to give them the extra months of life they or their family would value.
c) We ask that NICE take into account the current lack of effective therapy for metastatic renal cancer and hence consider raising their threshold of £30,000 in this instance.

We ask that all these points are considered by the Committee as we believe it is unlikely that approval will be forthcoming for these drugs on the basis of their cost, despite the potential benefit they could bring to renal cancer patients.

The report otherwise is comprehensive and will of course inform the NICE decision directly.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.
Yours sincerely,