
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib and temsirolimus for renal cell carcinoma

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

With a membership of over 400,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

Assessment Report – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) of the technology appraisal of Bevacizumab, Sorafenib, Sunitinib and Temsirolimus for renal cell carcinoma.

The report is very comprehensive. Our comments are set out below:

In page 20 of the report, it should be noted that when determining a patient's suitability for immunotherapy, we would always consider Performance status as well as other risk factors.

We have also had patients who seem suitable for immunotherapy but cannot tolerate it once treatment starts so we would say that these patients are unsuitable for immunotherapy.

Page 22: We are aware that the standard of care for metastatic renal cell cancer in the US is Sutent and not immunotherapy.

Page 190: As best supportive care in this group of patients, we would treat other symptoms for example dexamethasone for poor appetite; transfusion for anaemia; analgesia for pain.

When defining best supportive care on p190, the following should be taken into consideration: radiotherapy, bisphosphonates. The authors have addressed patient variation in the report.