

Dear Lori,

Thank you for the opportunity on behalf of the British Association of Stroke Physicians to comment on the appraisal consultation document in respect of Review of Technology Appraisal No.90 (Clopidogrel and modified release dipyridamole for the prevention of occlusive vascular events). I have the following comments under the general headings that you have suggested:

1. Has all of the relevant evidence been taken into account? As discussed at the Appraisal Committee Meeting, the reasons for exclusion of the CHARISMA and MATCH trials was discussed, and it may be relevant to mention this within the context of the trials considered (or not considered). In addition, and as previously outlined in my letter, the EARLY Trial was not considered, which compares early aspirin and dipyridamole initiation with standard initiation.
2. Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence. In Section 4.3.12, I think it would be more appropriate to say that patients with transient ischaemia attack are sometimes (rather than often) treated with clopidogrel. In addition in the Summary Table, I think it is important to reiterate that the preference for clopidogrel is based upon a generic (cheapest available) prescription.
3. Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS? In Section 1.5, it is my understanding that this statement refers to the possibility that benefit may extend beyond the current two year period recommended by the guidelines in respect of dual aspirin and modified release dipyridamole therapy. I wonder if this should be more explicitly stated in this section of the Provisional Recommendation.
4. Are there any aspects to the recommendation that need particular consideration to ensure we would avoid unlawful discrimination against any group of people on the grounds of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief? No

I trust that these minor comments are contributory, as I believe the document overall is a fair and balanced statement of the current evidence, the presentations made to the Appraisal Committee, and the subsequent discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment on the Appraisal Consultation documentation.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Please accept dictated not signed*

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