



***National Institute for
Health and Clinical Excellence***

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PRESS RELEASE

**NICE publishes final guidance on bevacizumab and
cetuximab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal
cancer**

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has today published final guidance on the use of bevacizumab and cetuximab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer.

The guidance does not recommend the use of these drugs for first line therapy for metastatic colorectal cancer (bevacizumab) and therapy following the failure of an irinotecan containing chemotherapy regimen (cetuximab) and means that the joint appeal against the recommendations contained in the Final Appraisal Determination in respect of cetuximab by Bowel Cancer UK and Cancerbackup and the appeal by Merck Pharmaceuticals have not been upheld.

Commenting on the guidance, Peter Littlejohns, Clinical & Public Health

Director, said: "The decision of the Appeal Panel means that the recommendations set out in the final appraisal determination will form the Institute's guidance to the NHS in England and Wales. The kinds of decisions the Institute is asked to make are amongst the most difficult in public life. Those who form our advisory committees are acutely aware of the responsibility they carry and they form their recommendations with great care. In this case, our advisory committee was certainly aware that colorectal cancer is an aggressive disease and that the treatment options available are limited. However, the difficult job they have to do is to balance the additional therapeutic benefit offered by these new treatments against their cost. The

assessment of the evidence shows that neither of these drugs represents a good use of NHS resources.”

The guidance, together with the decision of the Appeal Panel, is available (from 00.01 on 24 January 2007) on the NICE website at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/cancer>.

Ends

For more information call the NICE press office on 020 7067 5900.

Notes to Editors

About NICE

1. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.
2. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
 - **public health** – guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sector
 - **health technologies** – guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments and procedures within the NHS
 - **clinical practice** – guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS.