

## Quick reference guide

# Cetuximab for the treatment of recurrent and/or metastatic squamous cell cancer of the head and neck

### Guidance

- 1 Cetuximab in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy is not recommended for the treatment of recurrent and/or metastatic squamous cell cancer of the head and neck.
- 2 People currently receiving cetuximab in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy for the treatment of recurrent and/or metastatic squamous cell cancer of the head and neck should have the option to continue treatment until they and their clinician consider it appropriate to stop.

### Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations put this guidance into practice (listed below). These are available on our website ([www.nice.org.uk/TA172](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA172)).

- A costing statement explaining the resource impact of this guidance.
- Audit support for monitoring local practice.

### Further information

#### Ordering information

You can download the following documents from [www.nice.org.uk/TA172](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA172)

- A quick reference guide (this document) – the recommendations.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – a summary for patients and carers.
- The NICE guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or 'Understanding NICE guidance', phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email [publications@nice.org.uk](mailto:publications@nice.org.uk) and quote:

- N1889 (quick reference guide)
- N1890 ('Understanding NICE guidance').

## Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

### Published

- Cetuximab for the treatment of locally advanced squamous cell cancer of the head and neck. NICE technology appraisal guidance 145 (2008). Available from: [www.nice.org.uk/TA145](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA145)
- Improving outcomes in head and neck cancers: the manual. NICE cancer service guidance (2004). Available from: [www.nice.org.uk/csgnh](http://www.nice.org.uk/csgnh)

### Under development

- Intensity modulated radiotherapy for head and neck cancer. NICE technology appraisal (suspended).

## Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in June 2012. Information about the progress of a review will be available at [www.nice.org.uk/TA172](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA172)

This guidance represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

© National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2009. All rights reserved. This material may be freely reproduced for educational and not-for-profit purposes. No reproduction by or for commercial organisations, or for commercial purposes, is allowed without the express written permission of NICE.