

23 January 2006



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Dear Sir / Madam

Health Technology Appraisal

**Review of NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance No.27, Cox-II inhibitors for the
treatment of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis**

Proposal to update the review in guidelines

Following the EMEA safety review, and the changes concerning the role of NSAIDS, we now believe that the review of this guidance should be dealt with within the context of clinical guidelines. Consequently we propose that the original guidance be considered within:

- the on-going NICE guideline on osteoarthritis, which is currently scheduled to be published during 2008; and
- a guideline on rheumatoid arthritis, which the Institute has proposed to the Department of Health.

The current guidance stands until the time that the new guidelines are issued to the NHS.

I would be grateful if you could inform us of your views on the approach the Institute plans to take and of any evidence you believe relevant by 20th February 2006. Please send your comments by email to Bijal Chandarana, at <mailto:bijal.chandarana@nice.org.uk> or by post to the above address. Please note that a summary table of all comments received will be published on the Institute's web site when a decision has been taken.

Information on this approach will be published on the Institute's website (www.nice.org.uk) on 30th January 2006 and is confidential in the interim. Please see Appendix A for a full list of the organisations we have contacted. In the meantime if you have any queries please contact Bijal.

Yours faithfully

Dr Carole Longson
Director, Centre for Health Technology Evaluation

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
Proposals for the review of Cox-II inhibitors for the treatment of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis

Date: January 2006