



National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Lapatinib for women with previously treated advanced or metastatic breast cancer

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.

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to submit comments to inform the appraisal of Lapatinib for women with previously treated advanced or metastatic breast cancer

Nurses working in this area of health have reviewed the consultation documents. The following concerns have been raised around measuring of exceptional circumstances:

1. It is considered that the criteria for 3 month life extension in the current climate may be difficult to measure because the new NICE guidelines in advanced breast do not allow use of herceptin beyond progression and the drug may potentially be used at an earlier time than previously would be. Also progression free survival could be better surrogate in this instance and may give better overview of potential response. We have no other alternative at present post herceptin which leads to point 2.

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2. Current patient access programme allows 3 months free drug and NHS would only incur cost if patient did have response.