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National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Pemetrexed for the first line treatment of non small cell lung cancer**

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Royal College of Nursing

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**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.

**Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response**

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) of the technology appraisal of Pemetrexed for the first line treatment of non small cell lung cancer.

Nurses working in this area of health have reviewed the Appraisal Consultation Document. We are disappointed that, despite the testimony of experts at the Appraisal Committee Meeting, the ACD on the use of Pemetrexed for the first line treatment of non-small cell lung cancer indicates that the Committee is minded not to recommend this therapy. This will be a blow to the patients for whom this drug provides a life line.

We are pleased to note the Committee concluded that Pemetrexed is clinically effective in UK clinical practice, with increased survival and lower toxicity as compared with established therapy. It is worth noting that the overall survival rate for this patient group is low.

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We note that the Appraisal Committee has requested the manufacturer to submit further clarification and cost-effectiveness analyses for this technology. Following the Appraisal Committee's further deliberation, we strongly urge the Committee to issue a positive FAD for the use of this therapy for the first line treatment of non small cell lung cancer.