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Lizzie Amis
PPIP Project Manager,
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

17th December 2009

Dear Ms Amis,

NICE Technology Appraisal on non small cell lung cancer - Gefitinib

As you are aware, I regret that I am not able to attend the Appraisal Committee meeting for the above Technology Appraisal, on 7th January 2010. The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation does not have any additional scientific research to add to this appraisal.

This therapy does, however, represent a new, targeted treatment option, providing benefit to a clearly defined segment of non small cell lung cancer patients. It is an oral medication and, in the anecdotal patient experience reported to us, is very well tolerated. We acknowledge the challenges presented to pathology services, in ensuring pre-therapy testing. However, we would wish to remind the Committee of the overall poor prognosis and low survival rates for this patient group. Even relatively small improvements in survival and quality of life, as compared with the current established therapy, are of real importance to patients. We hope that, during its deliberations, the Appraisal Committee will be mindful of this and take it in to account.

We, therefore, strongly urge the Appraisal Committee to recommend this treatment, in its licenced indication. A positive recommendation is the only way to ensure that appropriate patients will access and derive benefit from this therapy.

If you require anything further, please contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jesme Fox,
Medical Director .