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Dr Carole Longson
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4th February 2010

Dear Dr Longson,

Response to the Appraisal Consultation Document - Gefitinib for the first line treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer

This letter is a response, on behalf of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

We are extremely disappointed that, despite the expert testimony of key lung cancer professionals during the Appraisal Committee Meeting, the recently issued ACD on the use of Gefitinib in the first line treatment of non-small cell lung cancer, reveals that the Committee is minded not to recommend this therapy.

This therapy represents a 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 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 into account.

We do note the Appraisal Committee's request to the manufacturer for further clarification and cost-effectiveness analyses. After consideration of this, we strongly urge the Committee to issue a positive FAD for this therapy indication.

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

Yours sincerely,

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