

Dear Committee members,

Prior to the 13th January 2010 FAD meeting on Rituximab for the treatment of relapsed/refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, please be aware of the following ERG base-case ICER re-calculation. The manufacturer identified an error in the ERGs revision of the base-case ICER. The ERG agreed they had made a mistake and re-calculated the ICER. The FAD discussion on 13th January 2010 will use the correct, re-calculated figure. Attached is an erratum letter from ERG, outlining the correct, re-calculated ICER

Regards,

**Frances Sutcliffe**  
**Associate Director Committee C**

### **Retimed rituximab costs**

(Note written by Pelham Barton on behalf of the West Midlands Health Technology Assessment Collaboration)

The manufacturer's model calculated monthly costs by the following formula:

$$=IF(\$B6 >= maxcycle,0,IF(\$B6=0, \$D6*c_{newtrt1}*(moadm_{new\_new}/SUM(\$D\$6:\$D\$11)),(s_{new}/n_{new})*(IF(\$B6>0,(\$D6/(1+disc\_c)^{\$B6}),\$D6)*c_{newtrt}*IF(\$B6=FLOOR(maxcycle*cyclen/day2mon,1),MOD(maxcycle*cyclen/day2mon,1),1))))$$

in which cell references \$B6 and \$D6 were updated line by line. This formula gave non-zero costs in the sixth month of treatment, which is not possible as all costs are incurred at the beginning of each 28 day cycle of treatment.

We attempted to correct for the timing of rituximab costs as indicated in Section 6.2 of the ERG report (pages 76-77). In doing so, we failed to take into account the fact that the unit costs had been multiplied by the factor *cyc2mon*, converting them into monthly costs. To preserve the integrity of the manufacturer's model as much as possible, we have divided back by this factor when including these costs in our amended version. The results are shown in the following table:

**Corrected Table 4. Effect of retiming rituximab costs**

Case considered	ICER		
	"Original"	ERG report	Corrected
Base case (Weibull)	£15,593	£18,129	£16,607
Gamma function	£14,735	£17,140	£15,699
Exponential function	£13,140	£15,277	£13,990
Log logistic function	£14,637	£17,050	£15,605
Log normal function	£13,247	£15,443	£14,131
Gompertz function	£17,317	£20,110	£18,430

Legend: "Original" results are those supplied by the manufacturer in response to initial clarification questions from the ERG. "ERG report" are the results quoted in the ERG report (page 77). "Corrected" are the versions that properly reflect the intentions of the ERG reanalysis.

Although the differences from the "original" results are now approximately 40 percent of the incorrect values, our statement "There is a non-negligible increase in ICERs from this reanalysis" (ERG report, p. 77) remains qualitatively correct..

Since we did not combine this with any other changes, the only other figure in the ERG report which requires amendment is in Table 9 (page 82), where the effect on ICER of retiming of rituximab costs should read "13,990 to 18,430" instead of "15,277 to 20,110".