

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Imatinib for the treatment of unresectable and/or metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumours (part review of TA86)

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was invited to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) for Imatinib for the treatment of unresectable and/or metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumours (part review of TA86)

Nurses working in this area of health reviewed the consultation documents on behalf of the RCN.

Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review this document. The RCN's response to the four questions on which comments were requested is set out below:

i) **Has the relevant evidence has been taken into account?**

The evidence should include all relevant current evidence.

ii) **Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence, and are the preliminary views on the resource impact and implications for the NHS appropriate?**

We would ask that the summaries of the clinical and cost effectiveness of this appraisal should be aligned to the clinical pathway followed by patients with advanced GIST. The preliminary views on resource impact and implications should be in line with established standard clinical practice.

iii) **Are the provisional recommendations of the Appraisal Committee sound and do they constitute a suitable basis for the preparation of guidance to the NHS?**

Nurses working in this area of health have reviewed the recommendations of the Appraisal Committee. We note that a small number of patients are affected by this condition, 900 per year in the UK. We note that without treatment GISTs progress and will eventually metastasise. It is, therefore, regrettable that the draft recommendations deny this group of patients access to this health technology for whom prognosis is stated to be poor with a generally survival rate of two years without further treatment.

iv) **Are there any equality related issues that need special consideration that are not covered in the ACD?**

None that we are aware of at this stage. We would however, ask that any guidance issued should show that equality issues have been considered and that the guidance demonstrates an understanding of issues concerning patients' age, faith, race, gender, disability, cultural and sexuality where appropriate.