British Renal Society’s comments on STA on Belimumab for the treatment of SLE

- Has all of the relevant evidence been taken into account?
  
  *We cannot see any obvious omission.*

- Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence?
  
  *Yes*

- Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS?
  
  *The two BLISS trials show some modest benefit for mild / modestly active SLE despite significant treatment in the placebo arm. The concern however is that only 34% of the trial patients were in the category being targeted in the submission and only 52% in BLISS 72 and 42% of patients in BLISS 56 were on immunosuppressants in addition to oral steroids, so they are not the patients nephrologists would be putting forward for a biological agent. Cerebral and renal diseases were excluded from the two trials and this is almost always the group of patients that nephrologists are looking for additional treatment for.*

- Are there any aspects of the recommendations that need particular consideration to ensure we avoid unlawful discrimination against any group of people on the grounds of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief?
  
  *No*

- Are there any equality-related issues that need special consideration and are not covered in the appraisal consultation document?
  
  *This has been covered in submission by other groups.*