



# The Royal College of Pathologists

## **NICE Appraisal Consultation Document**

### **Fludarabine monotherapy for the first line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia**

The College is disappointed by the recommendations in NICE's Final Appraisal Determination. We feel the failure of NICE to widen their scope to include the data on fludarabine and cyclophosphamide has led to a narrow determination which may remove the funding of a proven front – line therapy in CLL and singularly fails to take into account the full role of fludarabine in the treatment of CLL. It is an excellent example of narrowing the scope leading to a determination that may deny patients a front – line therapy that has not been assessed.

The Appraisal Consultation Document also fails to note that this technology is already being prescribed. The recommendations in NICE's Final Appraisal Determination should specify that those patients currently being given fludarabine for first line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia should have the option to continue their treatment. Otherwise, there is a risk that these patients will receive a substandard, less suitable treatment.

NICE's final guidance should also reflect the right of patients to make decisions, in consultation with their clinicians, about their own treatments.

NICE must also consider recommending the use of fludarabine in further clinical trials.