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Setting higher medical standards

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From The Registrar

MD FRCP

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11 December 2007

Dear Mr Feinmann

**Re: Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion for the treatment of diabetes (review)
Appraisal Consultation Document**

The Royal College of Physicians is grateful for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. We would like to make the following comments:

- We are broadly supportive of the recommendations made in the ACD.
- The recommendations are essentially based on observational trials rather than randomised controlled trials. Some justification for this is made in the document but we find this a surprising basis for conclusions, out of step with most NICE strategies. As the RCTs are generally negative and the observational trails generally positive we feel that the conclusions should reflect this.
- There is some inappropriate use of anecdotal evidence (e.g. on hypoglycaemia 4.3.3).

I trust these comments will be of use.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Registrar