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Dear Carole

### **Patient Access Scheme - Avastin**

I am writing to confirm the Department of Health's position on the Patient Access Scheme (PAS) arrangements that have been proposed by Roche for Avastin in the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC).

The Department is content for NICE to consider the PAS proposed by Roche. However, we have concerns about the scheme's complexity and believe that the administrative burden of the scheme is greater than that set out by the manufacturer.

The PPRS principles [6.26] state, "The full costs to the NHS of any such arrangements should be included in the costs considered by the Appraisal Committee". NICE is specifically asked to consider the complexity of the proposed scheme in its review of the proposed administration costs of the patient access scheme to the NHS in England and Wales, and the variation that is likely to exist in the valuation of those administration costs at local level.

We also have concerns, strongly reinforced by NHS colleagues, that a further consequence of the complexity of the scheme will be to limit its uptake by the NHS. Again, this is a point of which the Appraisal Committee may wish to be mindful.

Yours sincerely

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