



National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Rivaroxaban for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in people with atrial fibrillation

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was invited to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) for Rivaroxaban for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in people with atrial fibrillation.

Nurses caring for people with atrial fibrillation reviewed the 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 considered seems comprehensive.

ii) **Are the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness reasonable interpretations of the evidence?**

We agree with the discussion outlined within the clinical experts text related to my attendance.

However, we are unclear on how the revised figure of annual INR testing was made up and would like this to be broken down so it is more

transparent to the user of the guidance. The ROCKET –AF trial assumed the annual cost of INR testing to be £535. The revised cost assumed by the committee is stated to be £242. As this could influence the outcome significantly, it would be helpful if a breakdown were to be made available.

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 atrial fibrillation. The preliminary views on resource impact and implications should be in line with established standard clinical practice.

iii) **Are the provisional recommendations sound and a suitable basis for guidance to the NHS?**

Nurses working in this area of health have reviewed the recommendations of the Appraisal Committee and do not have any other comments to add.

The RCN would welcome guidance to the NHS on the use of this health technology.

iv) **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?**

None that we are aware of.

v) **Are there any equality-related issues that need special consideration that are not covered in the appraisal consultation document?**

We are not aware of any specific issue at this stage. However, it would be helpful to know if NICE will publish the equality analysis for this

appraisal. We would also ask that any guidance issued should show that an analysis of equality impact has been considered and that the guidance demonstrates an understanding of issues relating to all the protected characteristics where appropriate.