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PATRON HRH THE DUKE OF YORK, KG. KCVO, ADC

Mr.Chris Feinmann

Project Manager Single Technology Appraisals
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Peter House
Oxford Street
Manchester
M15AN

16thOctober 2007

Dear Mr. Feinmann,

Appraisal of ranibizumab and pegaptanib for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration

Jointresponse to the additional analysis commissioned by NICE

On behalf of:

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists
The Macular Disease Society
The Royal National Institute of Blind People

The complexity of the documents that you have provided is such that we jointly wish to respond. We feel that NICE should be able to give us an indication of what conclusions they are likely to draw from the considerable tabulated data which provides several scenarios. In particular we wish guidance as to what level of ICER will be considered.

We do raise questions about whether the costs of providing the service are correct and would refer you to The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Commissioning Document.

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the patient groups will respond separately in more detail to the consultation document.

However, in view of our concernsoutlined abovewe would liketo give you advancewarning that we will requestthat an additionalAppraisal ConsultationDocumentis issued beforethe FinalAppraisal Determination.

We appreciate that issuing a second ACD before the FAD may introduce slightly longer delays in issuing guidance. However, we are of the opinion that it would be the best way to allow us to comment more fully on all the relevant issues.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists, Macular Disease Society & The Royal National Institute of Blind People
CharityNo. 299872