



Health Department
Directorate of Healthcare Policy and Strategy

Dear Colleague

**SCOTTISH MEDICINES CONSORTIUM (SMC) ADVICE
AND SINGLE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISALS (STAs)
FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE (NICE)**

1. I am writing to provide confirmation that SMC remains the main source of advice in Scotland for the use of newly licensed medicines under the terms of [HDL \(2003\) 60](#) issued in November 2003.

Current SMC Process

2. The SMC provides advice to NHS Boards and their Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees (ADTCs) across Scotland about the status of all newly licensed medicines, all new formulations of existing medicines and all new indications for established products (licensed from January 2002).

NICE Single Technology Appraisals

3. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)'s Single Technology Appraisal (STA) programme provides early guidance on certain drugs to the NHS in England and Wales. The programme has been running since 2006. NICE STA advice has no status within NHSScotland and the guidance issued in [HDL \(2006\) 29](#) remains extant. We therefore expect NHS Boards to continue to comply with the SMC advice because of the robustness of the SMC process and its wide recognition and acceptability within NHSScotland. If however a NICE STA endorses a drug that was not recommended by the SMC, it is open to the manufacturers to resubmit the drug to SMC with new evidence. NHS QIS will continue to remind NHSScotland of the SMC recommendation on the day of a NICE STA release.

12 April 2007

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives
Chairs of Area Drug and Therapeutic
Committees

For information

Chief Executives of NHS Boards
Chief Pharmacists
Medical Directors
Directors of Public Health
Directors of Finance
Scottish Specialists in Pharmaceutical
Public Health

Enquiries to:

Steven Fenocchi
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2110
Fax: 0131-244 2989



NICE Multiple Technology Appraisals (MTAs)

4. NICE also has a multiple technology appraisal (MTA) process. MTAs examine a disease area or a class of drugs and contain either new evidence gathered after the launch of a drug or include new economic modelling. NHS QIS will continue to provide advice via email to NHSScotland on the NICE MTA on the NICE MTA day of release. Where NHS QIS decides that an MTA should apply in Scotland, their recommendations supersede SMC advice.

Conclusion

5. These arrangements will continue to ensure there is rapid, evidence-based advice for NHSScotland on the clinical and cost effectiveness of all newly licensed medicines, all new formulations of existing medicines and all new indications for established products.

6. NHS Chief Executives and ADTC Chairs are asked to note that the Scottish Medicines Consortium remains the main source of advice and recommendations on the use of newly licensed medicines, and the terms of HDL (2003) 60 on implementation of SMC advice continue to apply.

7. These arrangements will be monitored and reviewed as necessary but no later than March 2009.

DEREK FEELEY

Director of Healthcare Policy and Strategy