

Pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (Caelyx[®]) (No. 84/03)
Schering-Plough Ltd

Indication: metastatic breast cancer

Summary of Recommendation

12 January, 2004

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and ADTCs on its use in NHS Scotland. The recommendation is summarised as follows:

Advice: following a full submission.

Not recommended for use within NHS Scotland.

This pegylated liposomal formulation of doxorubicin hydrochloride is now licensed as monotherapy for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer where there is an increased cardiac risk. An inconclusive study has suggested that it was not inferior to conventional doxorubicin in terms of progression-free survival. It was less cardiotoxic than conventional doxorubicin, but was associated with other troublesome adverse events, particularly palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia. The product is significantly more expensive than the standard preparation and its cost-effectiveness in managing metastatic breast cancer has not been addressed by the company in their submission.

Professor David H Lawson
Chairman