

SMC Advice Following Independent Review Panel Assessment

Zoledronic acid (Zometa[®])

(No. 29/02)

Novartis Europharm Ltd

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 an Independent Review Panel consideration.

Zoledronic acid (Zometa[®]) is not recommended for use within NHS Scotland for the prevention of skeletal related events (SREs) in patients with advanced prostate cancer involving bone.

Although zoledronic acid demonstrated a reduction in SREs compared with placebo in these patients, the absolute reduction was small and the study requires caution in accepting this as sufficient evidence to introduce zoledronic acid into standard practice for the treatment of patients with metastatic prostate cancer. An economic case was submitted by the manufacturer but its quality was not judged to be sufficient to support a recommendation that the drug is cost-effective relative to standard practice in Scotland for this particular indication.

Professor David H Lawson
Chairman