



**National Institute for
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Dear Consultees and commentators,

**Health Technology Appraisal
Drugs for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension**

In August 2008 we informed you that the timelines for the technology appraisal of drugs for pulmonary arterial hypertension had been extended because we needed more time to consider the comments we received on the appraisal consultation document. We also pointed you to the national commissioning policy approach set out in 'Target Therapies for the Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension in Adults' as endorsed by the National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG) and to be implemented by Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs).

In reflecting on the comments on the ACD, the Institute discussed with the Department of Health the suitability of NICE appraising technologies for very small groups of people in a therapeutic area that is currently within an agreed national approach to specialised commissioning arrangements and, therefore, to the added value NICE may bring to providing guidance in the area.

As a result of these discussions we are now seeking your comments on a new draft remit and draft scope for this technology appraisal that exclude consideration of licensed prostanoids (intravenous epoprostenol) for the treatment of patients in functional class IV. The draft remit reads as follows:

“To appraise the clinical and cost effectiveness of treatments for pulmonary hypertension within functional classes I-III within their licensed indications”

After consideration of comments on the drafts, a final remit and scope will be issued. Consultees will be invited to make further submissions of evidence based on the new final scope. Timelines for these next steps are dependent on the receipt of the final remit from the Department of Health, and capacity of our Appraisal Committee. We will update you as soon as we can.

I appreciate that you may be disappointed with a further delay in the development of this technology appraisal but hope that you will work with us in implementing the way forward.

Please find attached the following documents:

- [Appendix A – draft remit and draft scope for the proposed appraisal;](#)
- [Appendix B – an updated matrix of consultees and commentators for the proposed appraisal;](#)
- [Appendix C – procedure note](#)
- Comment form – for you to complete and return;
- Contact details form – for you to complete and return.

We are including an updated matrix for you to comment on in line with our commitment to promoting equality and eliminating unlawful discrimination. We are keen to know if we have missed any important organisations from the lists contained within the matrix and which organisations we should include who have a particular focus on relevant equality issues.

Please return the forms by 5pm on **25 November 2008**.

It is important that you complete and return the comment form and contact details form even if you have no comments. This ensures we do not chase you for a response and that all future correspondence and documentation relating to this proposed appraisal reaches the appropriate person in your organisation.

Yours faithfully

Dr Carole Longson,

Director Centre for Health Technology Evaluation