

Supplementary written evidence from Novartis UK

I am writing regarding the Public Accounts Committee's review of the Cancer Drugs Fund and to provide additional information on Novartis' views on the future of the Fund.

Since 2010, the Cancer Drugs Fund has helped ensure that thousands of patients have benefitted from life-extending cancer drugs. However, while the fund has benefited a large number of patients, it was only ever intended as a stop-gap pending a wider re-examination of NICE and its processes. The CDF in its current form is no longer fit for purpose and is now a barrier to patient gaining access to the latest treatments.

As you know, NHS England published its plans for the future of the CDF shortly after the Committee announced its review. While Novartis broadly welcomes the proposals set out in the consultation we have outlined some elements of the proposals that give reasons for concern. We hope you will bear them in mind during your consideration of the Fund.

- Clarification is needed on the transition mechanism between the current Fund and the new CDF.
- The Fund remains closed to new cancer medicines, meaning that patients are still missing out on treatments they could benefit from.
- The proposed accelerated timelines for NICE appraisal of cancer medicines, while potentially feasible for a global pharmaceutical company like Novartis, are likely to be challenging for most companies. Flexibility with the timelines is essential as is recognition that they could jeopardise patient access from launch which has been a major beneficial feature of the CDF.
- The proposal for companies to fund all collection of real-world data during the conditional approval stage and the lack of clarity as to how NICE will assess this data.

We are developing ideas to address these issues in a way that should be acceptable to all stakeholder and I would be very happy to meet with you to discuss our initial response in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Barbara McLaughlan

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