

Leukaemia CARE

**** media information * media information * media information ****

Date of issue: 08 February 2010 EMBARGOED UNTIL 09 February 2010

Leukaemia CARE disappointment at NICE announcement

Leukaemia CARE is extremely disappointed with the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) released by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence today, Tuesday 9th February 2010. The ACD concerns two drugs, dasatinib and nilotinib in relation to the treatment of imatinib-intolerant Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML).

The decision not to recommend dasatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of CML in people for whom treatment with imatinib has failed because of intolerance deals a severe blow to patients.

“NICE's decision to say no to these two important drugs for CML is devastating news for patients because there is no other acceptable alternative treatment. Having acknowledged the clinical efficiency of these two drugs, to reject them purely on cost alone is unacceptable, particularly as these drugs have received positive guidance in Scotland and Wales.” Said Tony Gavin, Director of Campaigning and Advocacy at Leukaemia CARE.

“There is now one final window of opportunity for NICE to review their decision and take into account the views of patients, patient organisations and other stakeholders. We hope they are going to make these crucial treatments available to those who need it most – the patients.” he added.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

Leukaemia CARE is a national charity that provides care and support to patients, their families and carers during the difficult journey through the diagnosis and treatment of blood and lymphatic cancer. Leukaemia CARE provides the only dedicated free, staffed 24 hour phone CARE Line for patients and their families that enables people to discuss their feelings, concerns and emotions at such a difficult period of time.

For further information, please contact: Pauline Weaver 01905 755 977