

Cancer52 position statement on NICE and Value Based Assessment

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Cancer52 publishes position statement on NICE and Value Based Assessment

[Cancer52](#), an alliance of more than 70 predominantly patient support charities working in the field of rare and less common cancers, is today (21st February 2014) publishing its position statement "**NICE and Value Based Assessment (VBA) - NICE do it their way.**"

NICE is due to consult on its proposals on VBA and to announce an opening date for the consultation shortly.

Says Cancer52 Head of Policy David Ryner, "There has been a continuing failure of cancer drugs to be approved within the existing NICE process, and a suggestion that more would be approved under any new, but yet to be confirmed, VBA process. This might well make much needed drugs for rare and less common cancers more widely available, and with the current increase in the already disproportionate mortality for people with those cancers, we are keen to see progress."

Allyson Kaye MBE, Chair of Cancer52 says, "The challenges for rare and less common cancers are substantial and growing. Today 46% of cancers diagnosed are rare and less common cancers¹ but account for 54% all of cancer deaths². For many of these patients access to new treatments offers the only hope of survival."

In summary Cancer52 is asking that

- **NICE 'road test' their approach working with patients and carers** - setting out how patients and carers will be able to contribute to ensure a fuller understanding of the burden of illness and the wider societal benefits of new medicines
- **NICE should also set out how these proposals would have changed previous recommendations** so that we can all understand whether these are changes in reality, or just theoretical concepts adding to what can feel like the 'black box' of economic analysis undertaken to inform recommendations
- **Full and open approach to evaluations of VBP/VBA changes.** This should include how far VBP has changed research priorities, including the focus on research to treat those with rare and less common cancers.

Cancer52 is willing to work with all stakeholders to build on the opportunities of reform and to improve access to medicines in the UK.

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¹ source <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerstats/incidence/> accessed 14th February 2014 -

² source <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerstats/mortality/> accessed 14th February 2014