Different Drugs, Different Thresholds: A Social Good?

Is Cancer Special?

Scott Gavura, BScPhm, MBA
Director, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs

Better cancer services every step of the way
Survival increasing, but so are costs

Treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer
Over 750 cancer drugs / vaccines in development

Source: Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America. April 2008
New drugs are significantly more expensive

Monthly and Median Costs of Cancer Drugs at the Time of Approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), from 1965 through 2008

NICE thresholds in place since 2004

Normally fund

Normally not fund

0

£20,000
(CAD$36,000)

£30,000
(CAD$55,000)

ICER
(per QALY)
The impetus for change
### New criteria for end-of-life drugs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient Population</strong></td>
<td>Not exceeding 7000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life Expectancy</strong></td>
<td>Less than 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life gain expected</strong></td>
<td>Substantial (3 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternatives</strong></td>
<td>No funded alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PE Model</strong></td>
<td>Robust estimates shown or inferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PFS or OS data required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NICE thresholds in place since 2004

- Normally fund
  - 0
  - £20,000
    (CAD$36,000)
- Normally not fund
  - £30,000
    (CAD$55,000)

ICER
(per QALY)
New End-of-Life threshold?

0

Fund?

?  £55,000 (CAD$100,000)

ICER (per QALY)
Is cancer special?

- CE estimates complicated by nature of cancer trials
- Many drugs offer incremental benefit
  - Often metastatic setting
    - Life extending vs. life saving
- American survey, academic oncologists (Nadler, The Oncologist 2006)
  - Given hypothetical scenarios
  - Implied CE threshold of $300,000/QALY
- Ontario survey, medical oncologists (Berry, BMC Health Services Research 2007)
  - Unwilling to accept NDFP funding limits
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