

rituximab (MabThera)

(No: 135/04)

Roche

Summary of Advice

13 December 2004

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and ADTCs on its use in NHS Scotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

Advice: following a full submission.

Rituximab is accepted for use within NHS Scotland for the treatment of previously untreated patients with stage III-IV follicular lymphoma in combination with cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisolone (CVP) chemotherapy.

Rituximab is for use only by oncologists or haematologists who have expertise in treating lymphoma. It should be administered in a hospital environment where full resuscitation facilities are available. Limited results show that rituximab plus CVP significantly increased the time to treatment failure compared with CVP alone.

Professor David H Lawson
Chairman