



## **Cetuximab (Erbix<sup>®</sup>) for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer**

Summary of recommendations by *Zorginstituut Nederland* (National Health Care Institute, the Netherlands) dated 26 June 2017

*Zorginstituut Nederland* has carried out a re-assessment of the medicinal product cetuximab (Erbix<sup>®</sup>), whereby they came to the following conclusion.

Zorginstituut Nederland recently carried out a re-assessment of cetuximab. The assessment focussed on the first line treatment of patients with metastatic colorectal cancer with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR-) expression and the wild-type RAS-gene. Cetuximab in combination with FOLFOX was compared with FOLFOX alone. The Zorginstituut was advised by the Scientific Advisory Board (WAR).

The Zorginstituut concluded that, for the assessed indication, cetuximab has a therapeutic added value in comparison with FOLFOX alone. This replaces the Zorginstituut's earlier advice (dated 23 March 2015), that the combination of FOLFOX with cetuximab did not have an added therapeutic value and thus did not represent care that is insured via the *Zorgverzekeringswet* (Zvw).

In the past the Zorginstituut issued a positive assessment for another product for the assessed indication, namely, panitumumab (Vectibix<sup>®</sup>). For some time, professionals active in the field have been of the opinion that both products are essentially of equal value for the indication currently being assessed.

The budget impact analysis shows that the costs involved in using anti-EGFR therapies for first line treatment of colorectal cancer are higher than estimated in the 2015 report. As increased expenditure on one product can reasonably be expected to be compensated by lower expenditure on the other product, in this case budget impact is not a good tool for measuring a net increase in the expenditure involved in treating metastatic colonic cancer.

The Zorginstituut felt that a formal cost-effectiveness was not appropriate in view of the announcement made in the cetuximab report in 2015. This stated that in 2019 the Zorginstituut intends to review the entire indication field of metastatic colonic carcinoma, including the medicines, whereby attention will be paid both to aspects of appropriate use and to cost-effectiveness.

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*The original text of this excerpt from advice of Zorginstituut Nederland was in Dutch. Although great care was taken in translating the text from Dutch to English, the translation may nevertheless have resulted in discrepancies. Rights may only be derived on the basis of the Dutch version of Zorginstituut Nederland's advice.*

*Furthermore, Zorginstituut Nederland points out that only the summary of this report was translated. A proper understanding of all relevant considerations and facts would require familiarity with the Dutch version of this report, including all appendices.*