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**NICE Revised Guidance on Alzheimer’s Drugs:  
CCC Urges Further Research to Build Evidence Base for Later Stages of the Disease**

Responding to today’s welcome announcement by NICE, CCC, (formed in 1992 as the Continuing Care Conference) has called for further systematic research to ensure that there is a strengthened evidence base for informed decisions about the use of drugs in the later stages of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Dr Clive Bowman, CCC’s chairman, said.

“NICE has little data on which to build their advice with on the benefit of the drugs for the treatment of later stage dementia, particularly for people in care. Whilst NICE’s revised recommendation to the NHS with regard to mild disease is welcome it does not mean that there isn’t a useful benefit to be gained from an informed use of these drugs in later disease - it is merely that the evidence doesn’t exist. “

“NICE should encourage further systematic research in relation to later stage dementia that not only satisfies NICE assessment criteria but develops understanding of both the potential for treatment and any possible limitations on treatment. ”

Dr Bowman further commented on the reality that many families lack confidence in NICE’s guidance, resorting on occasion to bypassing health service prescribing, dispensing and control by acquiring drugs from overseas suppliers via the internet. He added.

“While one can understand the desperation that leads people to acquire drugs from overseas, it introduces new risks to vulnerable people. It is only by developing the evidence base that public and political confidence in future decision-making will grow.”

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## Notes for Editors:

### 1. Contacts for further information:

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2. Today's announcement from NICE of consultation on the revised first draft guidance on the use of drugs to treat Alzheimer's Disease can be found at [http://www.nice.org.uk/pdf/2006\\_001\\_Alz\\_Press\\_release\\_AD\\_App\\_Jan\\_06.pdf](http://www.nice.org.uk/pdf/2006_001_Alz_Press_release_AD_App_Jan_06.pdf)
3. *The Best Care Possible?*, CCC's long-term care policy healthcheck, identifies a wide range of issues and outlines measures needed to enable people to get the best care possible to meet their needs.
4. CCC is a broad-based, independent coalition of commercial, charitable and public service organisations with a shared interest in providing better long-term care for older people. CCC has been acting as an advocate for managed change since it was established in 1992 as the Continuing Care Conference with the objectives of:
  - increasing awareness and developing understanding of long-term care of older people as a political issue
  - raising the standards of care available to older people
  - developing the standards of financial products used to fund long-term care
5. CCC believes that all older people in Britain should live their lives in dignity, comfort and in a place of their choosing. We want all elements of society to make the necessary individual and social investment to ensure that happens. Our task is to ensure that policy-makers pursue this goal and to encourage the public to join with us in our mission to persuade them to do so.
6. CCC's Chairman is Dr Clive Bowman FRCP, Medical Director, BUPA Care Services. He recently chaired CCC's one-day conference, *Medication for frail older people: policy, practice and choice*. More information about CCC, including its members and Steering Group, are available at [www.ccc-ltc.org.uk](http://www.ccc-ltc.org.uk). Information about the conference can be found at <http://www.ccc-ltc.org.uk/conference/>

**CCC, 23 January 2006**