ANALYSIS OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CANCER DRUGS FUND: A SYSTEMATIC

INTRODUCTION
The Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) was set up in 2011 in England to enable patients to access therapies that are not routinely available on the National Health Service (NHS). In April 2013, NHS England became responsible for its management with a single national list of drugs for prioritized funding. As the CDF has recently been extended to 2016, it is increasingly important to understand the key criteria for inclusion on the CDF-approved list. This research aims to define those key inclusion criteria.

RESULTS
56 CDF decision summaries were available (Figure 1), 14 (25%) received full approval, 10 (18%) received conditional/restricted approval, 28 (50%) were rejected. 4 (7%) were referred to commissioning.

Most drugs score -1 for toxicity and 0 for both QoL and unmet need. A score of ≥2 seems to be the key clinical threshold above which most are approved, below which most are rejected.

16/18 appraisals scoring <2 were rejected (89%). 4 (7%) were referred to commissioning, 14 (25%) received full approval. 10/12 submissions (83%) were based on only Phase II data (Figure 3), 5 of which 56 CDF decision summaries were available (Figure 1), 14 (25%) received full approval, 10 (18%) received conditional/restricted approval, 28 (50%) were rejected. 4 (7%) were referred to commissioning.

Figure 2. Total scores of oncologics appraised under the CDF scorecard

Figure 2. Volume-area graph showing the distribution of scores by criteria across submissions

Figure 1. CDF appraisal outcomes

Table 1. How OS/PFS are scored under the CDF scoring tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of months</th>
<th>score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;2 months</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–3 months</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–5 months</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–7 months</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–9 months</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥12 months</td>
<td>5</td>
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Apparent threshold of 2, above which most are rejected

CONCLUSIONS
Scoring ≥2 on the CDF scorecard seems to be the key clinical threshold for CDF approval.

Most drugs score -1 for toxicity and 0 for both QoL and unmet need.

This means that 3 efficacy points are required, which can be achieved in Phase II data from either a 2-3 month improvement in OS AND PFS, OR a 4 month improvement in OS OR PFS.

However, this must be versus the relevant comparator.

REFERENCES