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Providing information support and access to established new or innovative treatments for Atrial Fibrillation

NEWS RELEASE FROM ATRIAL FIBRILLATION ASSOCIATION

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New hope for AF sufferers following NICE guidance rethink

Today the Atrial Fibrillation Association and the Arrhythmia Alliance welcomed the decision by NICE to recommend approval of dronedarone as a second line treatment option for Atrial Fibrillation (AF) patients, reversing its previous draft guidance published in December 2009.

NICE's Appraisal Committee recognised that dronedarone can and should occupy a currently vacant place in the care pathway, and that for a large and growing number of patients it could represent the only treatment option open to them.

Trudie Lobban, CEO of the Atrial Fibrillation Association which is campaigning for dronedarone to be approved said: "For thousands of AF patients this news will give them new hope that they will be able to lead a fulfilled and productive life. NICE's decision is triumph of common sense and will restore patient and healthcare professionals faith in NICE processes and evidence hearing. They took into account the value of the drug to patients whose lives have been crippled with either the symptoms of AF or the side effects of other treatments. It is important that symptomatic AF patients have access to specialist consultants who will be aware of the benefits of this new drug.

"I would like to thank all the patients, carers and clinicians who took the time to respond to the earlier Appraisal Consultation Document by NICE which ensured that a review was held and evidence from leading arrhythmia clinicians and AF patients was heard. Without their support many thousands of AF sufferers would be left without hope."

Professor John Camm, Head of the Department of Cardiac & Vascular Sciences at St George's, University of London, a Trustee of AFA and President of Arrhythmia Alliance said: "This decision will please many clinicians working in our field. It enables us to have the authority to prescribe dronedarone and gives us an additional treatment for patients who may have run out of options. I want to thank the NICE committee for being so responsive to requests to review all the evidence."

ENDS

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