



## STATEMENT FROM THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

The MRC strongly supports the principle of evidence-based medicine. We are therefore of the view that, before any new product is licensed for clinical use, there should be a rigorous assessment of its efficacy and safety, preferably based on a biological understanding of how its effect(s) are mediated. There should also be post-marketing monitoring to confirm efficacy and safety when the product has been given to larger populations than is possible pre-licensing. The MRC would welcome the application of similarly strict criteria of assessment and monitoring for all forms of treatment, including homoeopathic products. The MRC believes that claims should not be made about the efficacy of such products without rigorous and objective evidence from research. For products available through the NHS, there should also be an assessment of cost-effectiveness.

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