



**Recommendation to the Cancer Systemic Therapy Policy Committee (CSTPC)
from Capital District Health Authority/Cancer Care Nova Scotia**

**Guidelines for the Role of Cetuximab Plus Radiotherapy for Squamous Cell
Carcinoma of the Head and Neck (HNSCC)**

Approved Use:

Cetuximab: In **combination with radiotherapy as first line therapy** in patients with documented evidence of histologically confirmed locally advanced, non-metastatic HNSCC including oropharynx, hypopharynx or larynx who are unsuitable for concurrent cisplatin based chemotherapy. In any one patient, the following conditions for unsuitability may include:

1. Renal insufficiency.
2. Peripheral neuropathy.
3. High risk of developing peripheral neuropathy (eg: diabetes, underlying neurologic problems)
4. Hearing loss.
5. Co-morbid conditions.
6. Weight loss > 10% baseline body weight

Cisplatin based chemoradiotherapy will remain the standard of care in the locally advanced HNSCC patient population. Cetuximab in combination with radiotherapy may be considered in patients unsuitable for cisplatin based chemoradiotherapy with ECOG of 0-2 and wish to receive systemic therapy.

- This policy recommendation represents a **new guideline document** and a restriction of cetuximab to include locally advanced HNSCC patients as a first line therapy in patients not suitable for cisplatin based chemotherapy.