

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

## INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment

#### IPG381 Deep brain stimulation for intractable trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE Equality scheme.

#### Scoping

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (development of the scope or discussion at the Committee meeting), and, if so, what are they?

The scope initially related to DBS for chronic pain syndromes but at scoping, trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias (TACs) was identified as suitable for a dedicated piece of guidance. The scope pointed out that some people with chronic pain syndromes may be covered by equalities legislation.

Older age and female sex are significant predictors of chronic pain in the community. Factors generally related to socioeconomic status such as poor housing and heavy manual work are also predictors of chronic pain.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? If there are exclusions listed in the scope (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified?

This was not thought to have an impact on the assessment of the procedure. No exclusions were applied.

3. Has any change to the scope (such as additional issues raised during the Committee meeting) been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

No.

## Consultation

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

The scope pointed out potential equalities issues for chronic pain syndromes in general. The overview pointed out that patients with TACs are likely to be considered to have a disability and, therefore, likely to be covered by the equalities legislation.

No specific data relating to socioeconomic status were identified in the literature presented in the overview.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the overview, specialist adviser questionnaires or patient commentary, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

The patient commentary (received from 3 patients treated with DBS for TACs) reported that all had improvements in quality of life and were no longer suicidal after receiving treatment, even if pain was relieved only partially. In the guidance, the Committee commented on the positive patient commentaries.

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the Committee, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No.

4. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to access for the specific group?
No.

5. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to access identified in question 4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to promote equality?
No.

6. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the consultation document, and, if so, where?
The Committee have commented on the positive patient commentaries.

**Final interventional procedures document**

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?
No.

2. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to access for the specific group?
Not applicable.

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to access identified in question 2, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

Not applicable.

4. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final interventional procedures document, and, if so, where?

As stated in consultation document, the Committee have commented on the positive patient commentaries.

**Approved by Programme Director:** Mirella Marlow

**Date:** 2 February 2011