

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Guidance development**

**STA Cladribine for treating relapsing multiple sclerosis  
[ID6263]**

The impact on equality has been assessed during this appraisal according to the principles of the NICE equality scheme.

**Consultation**

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

The potential equality issues were largely based on the condition, multiple sclerosis, and not to do with the technology itself. The committee heard that multiple sclerosis disproportionately impacts women more than men, it is diagnosed in younger people, and the burden of some treatments can be challenging for various groups, including people with disability and travelling communities.

The committee considered the benefits of cladribine and potential impact for people from groups with known health disparities. See section 3.16 of the draft guidance.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the submissions, expert statements or academic report, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No additional equality issues have been raised.

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

No additional equality issues have been raised.

4. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No.

5. Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

6. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 4 or 5, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

Not applicable.

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the draft guidance, and, if so, where?

Section 3.16 includes details of the equalities issues raised and the committee's conclusions.

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Lorna Dunning

**Date:** 29/11/2024