

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Scoping**

**Therapeutic monitoring of TNF-alpha inhibitors in  
rheumatoid arthritis**

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

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| 1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (scoping workshop discussion, assessment subgroup discussion), and, if so, what are they? |
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Rheumatoid arthritis can have a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Therefore, people with rheumatoid arthritis may be covered under the disability provision of the Equality Act (2010).
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Therapeutic monitoring may also be helpful in people who have paused treatment due to pregnancy or treatment for other co-morbidities, and have subsequently re-started treatment with TNF- $\alpha$ inhibitors.
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| 2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? |
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The potential equality issues will be noted by the Committee and inform discussions where appropriate.
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| 3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues? |
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The potential equality issues have been included in the equalities section of the scope.
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4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No additional stakeholders have been identified.

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Sarah Byron

**Date:** 26/6/2018