

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Guidance development**

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

**Consultation**

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

During scoping it was noted that 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).

It was also noted during scoping that therapeutic monitoring may 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. The External Assessment Group did not identify any evidence relating to pause of treatment.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the diagnostics assessment report, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No other potential equality issues were raised in the diagnostics assessment report.

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

No other potential equality issues were identified by the committee.

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 diagnostics consultation document, and, if so, where?
Not applicable

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

**Date:** 5 March 2019

## Diagnostics guidance document

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No other potential equality issues were raised during the consultation

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 the technology compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

Not applicable (no changes to the recommendations)

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, 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?

Not applicable (no changes to the recommendations)

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

Not applicable (no changes to the recommendations)

5. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the diagnostics guidance document, and, if so, where?

No potential equality issues have been identified by the committee and thus no equality issues are discussed in the diagnostic guidance document

**Approved Programme Director (name):** Mirella Marlow

**Date:** 9 July 2019