

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Scoping**

**Rapid Tests for Group A Streptococcal infections in  
people with a sore throat**

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

<p>1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (scoping workshop discussion, assessment subgroup discussion), and, if so, what are they?</p>
<p>Several potential equality issues were identified during the scoping process:</p> <p>The incidence of strep A, and associated infections such as scarlet fever are most common in children. The mortality rate associated with invasive Group A Strep is greatest in people aged over 75. Healthcare professionals may be more concerned about onward transmission of Strep A where a person is in close contact with someone who is pregnant or who is immunocompromised.</p> <p>People with cognitive impairment may be less able to communicate their symptoms to a carer or healthcare professional. Injecting drug users are thought to be at greater risk of developing invasive Group A Strep.</p>

<p>2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?</p>
<p>The committee will need to consider the potential impact of different adverse outcomes in children and older people when they are making recommendations, and of the potential impacts of onward transmission to at risk groups. They will also need to be mindful that people with cognitive impairment may need special consideration by healthcare professionals</p>

when they are using clinical scoring tools to identify people who may require a rapid Strep A test.

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

Children aged 5 to 14 (who are at a greatest risk of Scarlet fever) and adults over 75 (who have the highest case mortality rate from invasive Group A Strep) have been added to the scope as subgroups.

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:** 15/11/2018