

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Guidance development**

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

**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:

- 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.
- 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.

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?

It has been raised that explaining the test procedure and taking a throat swab may be more difficult in certain groups of people, for example in younger children, or in people with cognitive impairment or learning difficulties.

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 – rapid tests for group A streptococcal infections in people with a sore throat are not recommended. No evidence was found on the potential additional benefits of testing in children or in people aged over 75.

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 – rapid tests for group A streptococcal infections in people with a sore throat are not recommended.

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?

No – rapid tests for group A streptococcal infections in people with a sore throat are not recommended.

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

Section 4.3 noted that explaining the test procedure and taking a throat swab may be more difficult in certain groups of people, for example in younger children, or in people with cognitive impairment or learning difficulties.

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

**Date:** 10/07/2019

### **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 additional potential equality issues have been 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?

The recommendation did not change after consultation.

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?

The recommendation did not change after consultation.

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?

The recommendation did not change after consultation.

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

Section 4.3 noted that explaining the test procedure and taking a throat swab may be more difficult in certain groups of people, for example in younger children, or in people with cognitive impairment or learning difficulties.

**Approved by Centre or Programme Director (name):** Mirella Marlow

**Date:** 10/09/2019