

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

The NephroCheck Test and NGAL assays to help assess the risk of acute kidney injury for people who are critically ill and being assessed for possible critical care admission

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

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (scoping workshop discussion, assessment subgroup discussion), and, if so, what are they?

The presence of chronic kidney disease is a major risk factor for acute kidney injury. Therefore, populations with higher incidence of chronic kidney disease also have higher incidence of acute kidney injury. These include older people, people with diabetes and in certain ethnic groups, for example people of south Asian family origin. Incidence is unlikely to be affected by the use of the technology but earlier detection and slowing of progression may be enabled.

The performance of the tests may be impacted by inflammation in people who have inflammatory conditions or an infection such as a urinary tract infection. These populations could be covered by the disability provision of the Equality Act 2010, depending on the nature and duration of the condition.

The manufacturer of the NephroCheck test state that the test is marketed in the UK for people aged over 21 years old. There may be less evidence on use of the tests in children and young people. Clinical experts commented that children who are considered to be critically ill are likely to be admitted to critical care immediately, therefore the tests may not have the same use in this population as for adults.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

If there is data available on the performance of the tests in people with urinary tract infections and other inflammatory conditions, the committee could consider if this would impact on the cost effectiveness of the tests in this population.

Children are included in the scope because the tests which are based on the detection of NGAL do not have an age restriction on their use. If little data is available on the performance of these tests when used for children and young people, the committee will need to consider if data from adults is generalisable to this population. The committee will also need to consider the impact of the NephroCheck not being suitable for use in children and young adults.

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

The scope of the assessment table (table 1 in the final scope) states that if data permits results could be reported separately for people with urinary tract infections and other inflammatory conditions so that the reliability of the tests in these populations can be considered.

There is no age restriction on the population included in the scope.

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.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Sarah Byron.

Date: 26/04/2019