

# **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE**

## **DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

### **Equality impact assessment – Scoping**

#### **MRI-based technologies for the assessment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease**

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?
  - People of South Asian origin may have a more centralised distribution of body fat, leading to a higher risk of associated chronic diseases such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) or non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Criteria for suspected NAFLD or NASH may be different in the South Asian population than in the wider population.
  - One of the major risk factors for NAFLD is obesity. Transient elastography or acoustic radiation force impulse imaging may fail in people with obesity due to fat or fluid overlying the liver. Therefore, MRI techniques may be beneficial for people who are obese if they enable non-invasive characterisation of fibrosis where other techniques may not work.
  - MRI techniques may not be suitable for people with a very high BMI because of the size of the scanner bore.
2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the committee?
  - The potential equality issues will be noted by the committee and will inform discussions where appropriate.
3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?
  - The potential equality issues have been highlighted in the equalities section of the scope.

- A population has been specifically included in the assessment for people for whom existing non-invasive techniques for characterisation of liver disease may not work to assess the impact of MRI techniques.
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 were identified.

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Rebecca Albrow

**Date:** 24 September 2021