

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

## **DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

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

#### **Software for automated detection and analysis of lung nodules from CT scan images**

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?

Potential equality issues were discussed both in the scoping workshop 3 November 2021 and in the assessment subgroup meeting 18 November 2021.

The following were identified as potential equality issues relating to the condition:

- People with lung cancer may be classified as having a disability and therefore protected under the Equality Act 2010 from the point of diagnosis.
- Incidence rates for lung cancer in the UK are highest in people aged 85 to 89 (Cancer Research UK 2016-2018).
- Lung cancer is more common in men than in women. But over time, whereas lung cancer rate in men has become lower, the rate in women has increased.
- There are differences in the rates of lung cancer between ethnic groups. In men, lung cancer is most common in white men and men of Bangladeshi family background. In women, lung cancer is most common in white women.
- The incidence and mortality of lung cancer are higher in deprived communities.

The following were identified as potential equality issues relating to the testing:

- Some people may find it challenging to lie still and to hold their breath or both during a chest CT scan. Some people may find it difficult to understand the instructions for what to do during the scan.
- If the software has been developed and validated in populations in which particular groups (such as people from different ethnic groups or people with lung conditions other than cancer) have been underrepresented, it may perform differently in these groups than data suggests.

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 considered by committee during decision making.

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

The potential equality issues have been included in the equalities section of the scope. Ethnicity has also been included as a subgroup.

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 related to potential equality issues have been identified during the scoping process.

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

**Date:** 29/11/21