

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment – Scoping

#### Exploratory economic modelling of SARS-CoV-2 viral detection point of care tests and serology tests

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?

During scoping workshop, it was noted that people over 65, people with underlying health conditions, men, black people and people from Bangladeshi or Pakistani family origin are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Age, disability, sex and race are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

It was noted that people with learning disabilities may have difficulty understanding the test. Following the scoping workshop, it was identified that pregnant women with significant heart disease may be at increased risk of adverse outcomes because of COVID-19, and that those in the third trimester should minimise social contact with others. Pregnancy is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

It was identified that antibody production may be reduced in people using immune suppressing medicines such as corticosteroids, hence serology tests may not detect antibodies in these people. In addition, the elderly may have reduced antibody production.

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

Depending on the availability of evidence the External Assessment group (EAG) will consider the following subgroups:

- Older people
- People with compromised immunity
- People with underlying health conditions, including pregnant women with significant heart disease
- People with learning disability
- Children
- People from black and south asian family origin

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

Subgroups for age and compromised immunity will be included in the analysis if evidence permits.

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):** Rebecca Albrow.....

**Date:**13 July 2020