

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## Medical technologies evaluation programme

### Equality impact assessment: Topic selection and scoping

#### MT451 SpaceOAR hydrogel spacer for reducing rectal toxicity during radiotherapy for prostate

The impact on equality has been assessed during this evaluation according to the principles of the [NICE Equality scheme](#).

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during selection, and, if so, what are they?

No equality issues were identified during selection. No contraindications are listed in the technology's instructions for use.

People with a diagnosis of cancer are classed as disabled from the point of diagnosis under the Equality Act 2010. Older people and people of African-Caribbean and African family origin are at higher risk of developing prostate cancer. Transgender women may also remain at risk of developing prostate cancer. Age, race, sex and gender reassignment are all protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

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

It is unlikely that these issues would hinder access of the technology for any specific group. The information above was included as a special consideration.

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

No substantial change to the draft scope was made. A minor change to the wording of the special considerations was made to highlight that all people with cancer are classed as disabled under the Equality Act.

A 2016 consensus statement ([Müller et al. 2016](#)) was identified by stakeholders during the scoping process. In this statement, the use of SpaceOAR was not recommended in people with locally advanced prostate cancer or those with active bleeding disorder or clinically significant coagulopathy because the complication risk exceeds potential benefits. The statement also recommended that SpaceOAR be used with caution in people taking anticoagulants, people with active inflammatory or infectious disease in the perineum or injection area and in people who have had previous treatment of prostate with high risk of adhesions. None of these are listed as a contraindication in the instructions for use for the technology. The evaluation of SpaceOAR carried out by the medical technology evaluation programme at NICE will aim to identify issues relating to patient selection based on all relevant available evidence in line with 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 additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues were identified during the scoping process.

**Approved by Programme Director: Mirella Marlow**

**Date:** 16 May 2019