

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

#### STA Vamorolone for treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy in people 4 years and over [ID4024]

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

#### Final draft guidance

(when draft guidance issued)

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

In response to draft guidance a stakeholder noted that a significant proportion of the population of people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) had learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism or pre-existing psychiatric difficulties. They noted that this group may be more likely to experience behavioural issues and may be more likely to stop corticosteroid treatment.

This could result in people with these conditions not having any suitable treatment options. The committee heard from the clinical experts who noted that behavioural issues are linked to a diagnosis of DMD, which can manifest in different ways in different children. The experts noted that having behavioural problems is not a contraindication for corticosteroid use. The committee noted that there is some evidence that behavioural issues linked to ADHD, autism, learning disabilities or pre-existing psychiatric difficulties are not exacerbated by steroid use. The clinical experts noted that there are very few people in clinical practice who are unable to tolerate any dose of steroid.

So, the committee was satisfied that any recommendation would not discriminate against people who could not have corticosteroids or who have learning disabilities, ADHD, autism or pre-existing psychiatric difficulties.

2. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No

4. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

N/A

5. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final draft guidance, and, if so, where?

Yes in section 3.22

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Ian Watson

**Date:** 04/12/2024