NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Health Technology Evaluation

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Hydromethylthionine mesylate for treating mild cognitive impairment or mild or moderate dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease

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 the scoping process (draft scope consultation and scoping workshop discussion), and, if so, what are they?

Several potential equality issues were raised during scoping, including:

- Lower rates of diagnosis in those with young onset dementia.
- Greater risk of dementia in black and South Asian people when compared to white people, and worse outcomes after diagnosis.
- Higher prevalence of dementia in women than men.
- People with Down's syndrome have a particularly high lifetime risk of dementia.
- The exclusion of some people from trials for hydromethylthionine mesylate, namely those who live alone and those with comorbidities.
- Most carers for people with dementia are women.
- People with mild dementia or mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease are not routinely tested for amyloid pathology in the NHS. This means that there is a risk that existing geographical and demographic inequalities in access to a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease will become inequalities in access to a disease-modifying treatment.

2.	What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?
Where appropriate, the committee will consider the impact the recommendations may have for people with protected characteristics (including age, sex, race, and disability) and the impact on people from socioeconomically deprived backgrounds. Regarding people with Down's syndrome, the MHRA will assess the efficacy and safety of hydromethylthionine mesylate within its considerations for granting a marketing authorisation. NICE can only make recommendations with a technology's marketing authorisation. The company have indicated that access to hydromethylthionine mesylate will not depend on amyloid positivity.	

3.	Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?
No changes to the scope are required.	

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?
The company identified several additional stakeholders, but none are related to potential equality issues. No changes to the stakeholder list have been made.	

Approved by Associate Director (name): Ross Dent
Date: 26/06/24