

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Scoping**

**MTA Nusinersen and risdiplam for treating spinal muscular atrophy**

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

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| 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? |
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Nusinersen would be provided at a limited number of specialist centres, there is the potential for issues of equity of access based on geographic location.
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Recommending only one treatment for routine commissioning would not allow equitable access for the whole population in scope. Some people with SMA have scoliosis and cannot receive nusinersen, while others experience adverse side effects with risdiplam.
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| 2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the committee? |
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Access to specialist centres is an implementation issue; it is not an equality issue that can normally be addressed by a technology appraisal.
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The committee will consider whether any of its recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access treatment compared with other groups. It will consider if there are any recommendations it could make to remove or alleviate these barriers.
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3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?
No

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the matrix been made?
No

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Ross Dent

**Date:** 27/09/2023