

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Topic selection and scoping

Digitally enabled weight management programmes to support treatment with weight management medication: early value assessment

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 development of the topic briefing note or during selection, and, if so, what are they?

Several potential equality issues have been identified in line with equality considerations for the included technologies. Key issues include:

- Digitally enabled weight management programmes are accessed via a mobile phone, tablet, or computer. People will need regular access to a device with internet access to use the technologies. Additional support and resources may therefore be needed for people who are unfamiliar with digital technologies or people who do not have access to smart devices or the internet.
- People with visual, hearing, or cognitive impairment; problems with manual dexterity; a learning disability; or who are unable to read or understand health-related information (including people who cannot read English) may need additional support to use digitally enabled programmes. Some people would benefit from digitally enabled weight management programmes in languages other than English.
- People's ethnic, religious, and cultural background may affect their views of digitally enabled weight management interventions. Healthcare professionals should discuss the language and cultural content of digitally enabled programmes with patients before use.

Obesity rates increase with age and people aged 45 and over have an increased risk of obesity. Obesity rates differ between socio-economic groups. People living in

the most deprived areas are more likely to be living with obesity than those in the least deprived areas.

People with a South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean family background are prone to central adiposity and have an increased risk of chronic health conditions at a lower BMI.

Age, disability, race and religion or belief are 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?

The committee should consider all the equality issues when making recommendations. Access to specialist weight management services may not be improved for those who are unable to engage with a digital service due to a lack of accessibility, lack of equipment, unavailability of internet connection or lack of experience with computers or smartphones.

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

The potential equality issues were discussed at the scoping workshop. Stakeholders agreed with the potential issues that were raised and one additional equality issue was raised. Neurodivergent people may need additional support to use digitally enabled programmes and this has been added to 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 Associate Director: Anastasia Chalkidou

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