

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment

IPG545 Percutaneous intradiscal radiofrequency treatment of the intervertebral disc nucleus for low back pain

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE Equality scheme.

Scoping

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (development of the scope or discussion at the Committee meeting), and, if so, what are they?

Age: Studies have shown that the risk of low back pain increases as a patient gets older, but about the age of 65 the risk stops increasing. Back pain is the most frequent cause of limitation of activity in people younger than 45 years of age. Low back pain is common in working-age adults (particularly between the ages of 40 and 60 years).

Gender: Some studies have shown that males are at greater risk for low back pain, while other studies suggest that females are more likely to develop this type of pain. Women who have had two or more pregnancies have a higher risk of developing low back pain. According to the Health survey for England 2011, back pain was responsible for 37% of all chronic pain in men and 44% in women.

Disability: Patients with chronic low back pain are likely to be covered by the Equality Act 2010 if their condition has had a substantial adverse impact on normal day to day activities for over 12 months or is likely to do so.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? (If there are exclusions listed in the scope (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified?)

This was not thought to have an impact on the assessment of the procedure.

No exclusions were applied.

3. Has any change to the scope (such as additional issues raised during the Committee meeting) been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

No

Consultation

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

Age: Mean 42 years for patients with low back pain included in the overview in studies where age data were reported.

Gender: 55% (157/285) of patients with low back pain included in the overview were female.

Disability: No specific data relating to disability was identified in the literature presented in the overview.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the overview, specialist adviser questionnaires or patient commentary, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the Committee, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No

4. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared

with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No

5. Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

Not applicable

6. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 4 or 5, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to promote equality?

Not applicable

7. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the consultation document, and, if so, where?

No

Final interventional procedures document

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

No

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 a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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?

Not applicable

5. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final interventional procedures document, and, if so, where?

No

Approved by Programme Director

Date: 2 December 2015