

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES EVALUATION PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

Virtual Touch Quantification

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

Consultation

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

No equality issues were identified during the development of the scope.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been highlighted in the sponsor's submission, or patient organisation questionnaires, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

No potential equality issues have been identified.

The Committee considered that the use of the Virtual Touch Quantification (VTq) software may be particularly beneficial for children with chronic hepatitis who may have to have repeat liver biopsies to monitor their disease.

One published study in the sponsor's submission suggested that results of VTq assessment may vary between people of different ethnicities, although the factors influencing this finding were unclear and were possibly confounding. The Committee considered that this had been taken into account in the analysis of the clinical evidence overall.

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

No other potential equality issues were identified.

The Committee considered that VTq may be suitable for people with conditions including obesity or ascites who would not otherwise be able to have non-invasive fibrosis assessment with transient elastography.

4. Do the preliminary recommendations 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?

The preliminary recommendations do not hinder access to the technology for any specific group.

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?

No potential adverse impact has been identified.

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 obligations to promote equality?

Not applicable.

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

No equality issues have been identified.

Considerations relating to use of VTq for children and people with specific

conditions have been made in sections 3.23-3.24 of the medical technology consultation document.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Mark Campbell

Date: 17/12/14

Medical technologies guidance document

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

No additional equality issues were raised.

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 access for the specific group?

The recommendations were not changed following consultation, other than editing for clarification. The final recommendations do not restrict access to the device by any specific group.

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?

No potential adverse impact has been identified.

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?

No barriers, difficulties or other equality issues have been identified.

5. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the medical technologies guidance document, and, if so, where?

No equality issues have been identified. Considerations relating to use of VTq for children and people with specific conditions have been made in sections 3.24, 3.26 and 4.4 of the guidance.

Approved by Programme Director: Mirella Marlow

Date: 21 September 2015