

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES EVALUATION PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Topic selection and scoping

Spectra Optia Apheresis System for automated red blood cell exchange in patients with sickle cell 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 development of the briefing note or during the Committee meeting, and, if so, what are they?

No equality issues were identified during the development of the briefing note. It was noted that sickle cell disease is most common in people whose families originate from Africa, the Caribbean, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and Asia. This is a function of the clinical condition, not of the technology.

It was noted at the Committee meeting that some people with sickle cell disease may be classed as disabled, and that disability is a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equality Act.

The Committee also heard that specialist centres that treat people with sickle cell anaemia with the Spectra Optia apheresis system are concentrated in urban areas and are not equally equipped in terms of the treatments they offer. This means that some people have to travel long distances to receive treatment.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

No action required.

3. Does the scope need to highlight any potential equality issues? If so, how?

No action required.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Mark Campbell

Date: 2 June 2015