NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Guidance development

MT355 iFuse for treating chronic sacroiliac joint pain

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

Medical technology consultation document

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how?
No potential equality issues were identified. People with chronic sacroiliac (SI) joint pain or lower back pain lasting more than one year may be considered disabled under the Equality Act 2010, if the condition has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities. People may experience chronic SI joint pain following pregnancy and childbirth, pregnancy is a protected characteristic.

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 other potential equality issues were identified.

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the committee and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?
At the committee meeting clinical experts stated that some commissioning bodies may not offer funding for repeated steroid injections in the SI joint. The draft guidance recommends iFuse for people with a confirmed diagnosis of chronic sacroiliac joint pain with inadequately controlled pain.

At the committee meeting clinical experts explained that chronic SI joint pain is underdiagnosed, and an increased awareness of the condition amongst clinicians when assessing and treating low back pain would be beneficial. This is discussed in section 4.7 of the MTCD.

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?
No, the preliminary recommendations state that iFuse should be offered to anyone with a confirmed diagnosis of chronic sacroiliac joint pain with inadequately controlled pain.

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.

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?
No.

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the medical technology consultation document, and, if so, where?
The committee considerations on the impact of the disease are discussed in section 4.4 of the MTCD.

Approved by Acting Programme Director: Mark Campbell

Date: 30 May 2018

Medical technology guidance document

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?
No potential equality issues were raised during consultation.

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?
No.

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.

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.

5. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the medical technology guidance document, and, if so, where?
The committee considerations on the impact of the disease are discussed in section 4.4 of the MTG.

Approved by Acting Programme Director: Mark Campbell

Date: 24 August 2018