

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Guidance development

MT457 Episcissors-60 for mediolateral episiotomy

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 equality issues have been identified, but the committee addressed the following considerations. The scope considered that some women of Asian family origin may be more at risk of obstetric anal sphincter injuries (OASI). Those with severe faecal incontinence may meet the criteria for disability under the Equality Act 2010. Sex, pregnancy, race and disability are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been highlighted in the company's submission, or patient organisation questionnaires, 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?

The committee stated that Episcissors-60 are intended for use in pregnant women during delivery. Women of older age are more likely to sustain anal sphincter damage. Age and gender are protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. The committee also stated that women who have undergone female genital mutilation may be at increased risk of OASI, although there is no evidence for this.

The committee acknowledged that women of Asian family origin may be at higher risk of OASIs due to a shorter perineal body length.

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

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?

Yes, please see section 4.8

Approved by Associate Director: Joanne Holden

Date: 26/09/19

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 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?

N/A

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?

N/A

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?

N/A

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

Sections 1.2, 4.10, 4.11 and 4.22 of the medical technology guidance document

Approved by Programme Director: Mirella Marlow

Date: 29 November 2019