

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Guidance development

MT417 Axonics sacral neuromodulation system for treating refractory overactive bladder

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?

Urinary incontinence is associated with the protected characteristics of age, disability, sex and pregnancy. Axonics rechargeable sacral neuromodulation (SNM) system is contraindicated in people who cannot operate the device, which could include people with physical or cognitive impairment.

The committee heard from the clinical experts that a carer can help with the recharging of the device and concluded that the choice of rechargeable or non-rechargeable device should be made by the person, with advice from their clinician.

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 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?

The committee's considerations relating to equality are detailed in sections 4.4, 4.5, 4.8 and 4.9 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

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?

Some people with cognitive impairment and/or memory loss may be unable to use Axonics SNM system due to the need to remember to recharge the device. The committee heard from the clinical experts that in most cases a carer can assist with this. The committee considered that if no carer is available and Axonics SNM system cannot be recharged the option of a non-rechargeable SNM system would still be available. This would have the same clinical efficacy with a shorter battery life.

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?

None identified at this stage.

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

These are described in section 4.4 of the MTCD.

Approved by Programme Director: Mirella Marlow

Date: 12 February 2020

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 additional 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 substantial changes were made to the recommendations as a result of the consultation.

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 substantial changes were made to the recommendations as a result of the consultation.

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 substantial changes were made to the recommendations as a result of the consultation.

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

Yes. The committee's considerations relating to equality are detailed in sections 4.7, 4.8 and 4.10 of the MTG.

Approved by Associate Director: Jo Holden

Date: 6 July 2020