

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Topic selection and scoping

MT507 Plus Sutures for preventing surgical site infection

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 topic briefing note or during selection, and, if so, what are they?

This technology should not be used in people with known allergies to triclosan. The company's product information manual advises that the use of all absorbable sutures, including Plus Sutures, may not be appropriate in elderly, malnourished, or debilitated patients, or in patients with conditions that may prevent wound healing. Age is a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equalities Act. In some cases, these people may be classed as disabled; disability is a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equalities Act.

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

The use of absorbable sutures, in general, is dependent on a range of factors that affect tissue health. It is unlikely that that these potential considerations would hinder access to the technology for any specific group.

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

The potential equality issues have been highlighted in the scope for special consideration.

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No

Approved by Associate Director: Chris Chesters

Date: 16 Feb 2021