

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Guidance development

Plus Sutures for preventing surgical site infections

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 additional equality issues were identified by stakeholders during scoping; however, equality considerations were highlighted.

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. In some cases, these people may be classed as disabled; age and disability are protected characteristics under the 2010 Equalities Act. These considerations were acknowledged and discussed at the committee meeting.

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 have been identified in the sponsors submission

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the committee and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No other equality issues were identified by the committee.

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?

Equality considerations related to the recommendations were discussed and are reflected in the Guidance, section 4.3.

Approved by Associate Director: Anastasia Chalkidou

Date: 8/06/2021