

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Topic selection and scoping

GID-MT570 AposHealth for knee osteoarthritis

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?

AposHealth is intended for people with knee osteoarthritis. The technology is contraindicated in people who have severe imbalance or vertigo issues. Vertigo can occur at any age but is more common in people over 65. The technology is also not suitable for people considered at high risk of falls or those with severe osteoporosis. The technology should be worn for at least an hour a day so may not be suitable for people with very limited mobility or those who use walking aids to get around at home, depending on clinical judgment. Mobility impairments and other conditions that have a substantial and long-term adverse effect on daily functioning are considered disabilities under the Equality Act 2010.

Osteoarthritis is more common in people who are older, in women and in people with obesity. One meta-analysis conducted in North America found that pain severity and disability is higher for people with an African family background compared with people with a European family background. Age, sex, disability and race are protected characteristics.

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

The committee should consider the impact that the known contraindications may have on access to AposHealth for people with protected characteristics.

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

No. The information above was included as special considerations.

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 additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues were identified during the scoping process.

Approved by Associate Director: Anastasia Chalkidou

Date: 20/05/2022