

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 scoping process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how?

AposHealth is intended for people with knee osteoarthritis. 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 under the Equality Act 2010.

The technology is contraindicated for people with balance issues, people who require walking aids and people with especially severe osteoporosis. Mobility impairments and other conditions that have a substantial and long-term adverse effect on daily functioning are considered disabilities. Disability is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The committee acknowledged that the technology may not be suitable for certain people but accepted that healthcare professionals will use clinical judgement on an individual basis when referring people for AposHealth.

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.

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

No.

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. Although there are contraindications for AposHealth, exclusion is not a direct result of the committee's recommendations. People will be reviewed on an individual basis using clinical judgement.

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?

Section 4.3 includes the committee considerations on the use of AposHealth for people who may be contraindicated.

Approved by Associate Director: Anastasia Chalkidou

Date: 09/11/2022