

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## Medical technologies evaluation programme

### Equality impact assessment: Topic selection and scoping

#### MT575 GaitSmart rehabilitation exercise programme for gait and mobility issues

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?

- Patient-facing digital health technologies such as the vGym exercise programme are delivered through a mobile phone or tablet. People will need regular access to a device with internet access to use the application. Additional support and resources may therefore be needed for people who are unfamiliar with digital technologies, do not have access to smart devices and may be unsuitable for people with visual or cognitive impairment, problems with manual dexterity or learning disabilities.
- The technology may be unsuitable for some people who have had a lower limb amputation.
- People at risk of falls and people who have been referred for knee or hip surgery are likely to be aged 65 years and older.
- Age and disability are a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.

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

The committee should consider the use of digital technologies in this specific population group. It was noted during the scope consultation that the reports and advice generated by the app can be printed off and used without the need to access a personal device. Scope consultation also highlighted that there is

evidence of the technology being used successfully by 1 person with a lower limb amputation.

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

The lower limb amputation group was added and it was highlighted that some people with a lower limb amputation may be excluded. This depends on the extent of the amputation and mobility of the person with the amputation.

**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?

Yes, Royal College of Occupational Therapists and Chartered Physiotherapists working with Older People (agile) have been added to the stakeholder list

**Approved by Associate Director:** Anastasia Chalkidou

**Date:** 24/03/2023