

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Guidance development**

**STA Avapritinib for treating advanced systemic  
mastocytosis**

The impact on equality has been assessed during this appraisal according to the principles of the NICE equality scheme.

**Final draft guidance (when no draft guidance was issued)**

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how?

In response to scoping consultation, the company commented that avapritinib does not contain gelatine as an excipient. Inclusion of gelatine can be problematic for people with certain religious or cultural beliefs, particularly those of the Islamic faith for whom this product may not be considered to be Halal. Provision of a gelatine-free treatment option is important to ensure access for all patients regardless of religious or cultural beliefs.

The excipients in avapritinib is not an equality issue that NICE can address in a technology appraisal. However, the committee did consider the absence of gelatine in avapritinib as an uncaptured benefit.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the submissions, expert statements or academic report, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

None raised.

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

None identified.

4. Do the 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 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 Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final draft guidance, and, if so, where?

Yes, in sections 3.18 and 3.19.

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Ian Watson

**Date:** 26/09/2024