

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

## HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

#### STA apixaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation

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

#### Final Appraisal Determination

(when no ACD was issued)

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

Following consultation on the draft scope, consultees said that availability of therapy should not be restricted by patients' age and that patients whose native language is not English could face restrictions or barriers when accessing warfarin clinics. This was not an issue at the committee meeting as the Appraisal Committee considered the technology to be cost-effective for the whole population for whom it is licensed.

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?

No equalities issues were raised in the manufacturer's submission or the ERG report. One professional group said that patients with atrial fibrillation with mental impairments that affect their ability to make decisions relating to treatment options should not be denied or refused access to a treatment that could reduce their risk of stroke or systemic embolism. Another professional group said that the evidence base for the effectiveness and safety of apixaban is very inclusive in terms of race, gender, and socioeconomic group. These comments were presented to Committee in the Committee papers, however, these were not considered to be equalities issues as they

did not suggest that there was a potential for access to the technology to be restricted in populations defined by protected characteristics outlined in the equalities legislation. It was considered that these did not need to be further addressed in the Committee meeting.

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

No other potential equality issues were identified by the Committee

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?

Not applicable

7. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final appraisal determination, and, if so, where?

In the summary of the Appraisal Committee's key conclusions, under additional factors to be taken into account it is noted that no equalities issues were identified.

**Approved by Programme Director (name):** Meindert  
Boysen.....

**Date:** 27/02/2013