

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Ledipasvir-sofosbuvir for treating chronic hepatitis C

Batch 36

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

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (draft scope consultation and scoping workshop discussion), and, if so, what are they?

One consultee highlighted that NICE should be aware that HCV adversely affects certain populations who could be considered at risk of being disadvantaged in terms of accessing the healthcare system and therefore at risk of inequity of access to innovative new treatments. For example:

- Certain immigrant populations
- Prison population
- Intravenous drug users.

At the scoping workshop a patient expert stated that in clinical practice there may be a reluctance to treat people who use intravenous drugs with treatments for hepatitis C due to fear of drug interactions. Attendees agreed that any guidance should ensure it does not exclude these patient groups unless there is evidence on the risk of harm due to drug interaction and it may be a potential barrier to access. It was also suggested that a positive statement from NICE about not excluding patients who use intravenous drugs for this combination therapy will be helpful.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality

issues need addressing by the Committee?
Attendees agreed that any guidance should ensure it does not exclude these patient groups unless there is evidence on the risk of harm due to drug interaction.

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?
No

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the matrix been made?
No

Approved by Associate Director (name): Helen Knight
Date: 19/08/2014