

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

STA Vortioxetine for the treatment of moderate to severe major depressive disorder

Batch 27

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?

1. Consultees at the scoping workshop indicated that there are equality issues with SSRIs for postmenopausal and elderly women, and discussed whether these subgroups would be affected by an appraisal of vortioxetine for major depressive disorder.
2. During the 2nd draft scope consultation a consultee mentioned that depression is known to be associated with socio-economic factors, so it is possible that improved treatments for depression would have a positive impact on protected groups.
3. During the 2nd draft scope consultation the company mentioned that conducting trials in depression proves challenging due to the high variability in response, the heterogeneous patients being diagnosed, the difficulties in objectively measuring the severity of depression and the high placebo effect. The company stated that this affects investment into mental health from the pharmaceutical industry, but that it is committed to its continued investment into the research and development of innovative medicines in mental health, including depression.

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

1. The manufacturer indicated that vortioxetine is classed under 'other antidepressants', which makes it a non-SSRI antidepressant. In addition, the clinical trials include adult males and females. Consultees agreed that this is not an equalities issue.
2. The comment does not raise any specific point that needs discussion by the Appraisal Committee.
3. The issues raised do **not** show how any recommendations for vortioxetine could be considered unfair in the context of the Equality legislation.

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

No change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues.

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 additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues have been identified during the scoping process.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Elisabeth George

Date: 27/11/2014

Date corrected: 01/06/2015 (correction indicated in bold in section 2 point 3)