

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Anifrolumab for treating active autoantibody-positive systemic lupus erythematosus

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?

- SLE affects people of all ethnic groups but is more common in people with African, Caribbean and Asian family backgrounds. Double-stranded-DNA antibodies are less common in this population so it could be discriminatory to use double-stranded-DNA antibodies as an eligibility criterion (and not other lupus-related antibodies).
- SLE is 6 to 9 times more common in women than men.
- SLE is common among women at the childbearing age. The risk of infertility from cyclophosphamide and the teratogenicity of cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and mycophenolate mofetil needs to be considered.
- Biologic treatments for SLE are only available through specialist centres which could present a barrier to access for people who live far from centres or who have difficulty travelling due to ill health or disability.
- Intravenous administration may present a barrier to access for working age people who might not be able to take time off work for their infusions.

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

The committee may need to consider separately the impact of SLE treatments on people with African, Asian, and Caribbean family backgrounds

and women. If a positive recommendation is reached, the committee will need to consider any equality issues related to eligibility criteria or the mode of administration in its decision-making.

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

No changes needed at this point.

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 identified.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Ross Dent

Date: 07/06/2021