

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Scoping**

**STA Voclosporin with immunosuppressive therapies for  
treating lupus nephritis [ID3962]**

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?

- Lupus nephritis is more common among people with Indo-Asian, Afro-Caribbean and Chinese family backgrounds, than people described as white. People with non-white family backgrounds are more likely to have poorer outcomes. It should be considered whether steroid-sparing treatments such as voclosporin could have additional advantages over standard treatments by reducing some adverse effects and risks of comorbidities.
- Lupus nephritis is more common in women than men. It is common in women of child-bearing age. The risk of infertility from cyclophosphamide and the teratogenicity of cyclophosphamide and mycophenolate mofetil needs to be considered.
- Voclosporin capsules can only be swallowed whole. Oral administration may be challenging in those with nil oral route or swallowing difficulties. Other comparators such as tacrolimus can be given in an alternative route, such as sublingually or intravenously. And ciclosporin (Neoral) is available in oral solution, therefore dose can be administered via enteral feeding tube if required.

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 lupus nephritis treatments on people with Indo-Asian, Afro-Caribbean and Chinese family backgrounds and women of childbearing potential. 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. However, issues about differences in prevalence or incidence of a condition and healthcare implementation cannot be addressed in a technology appraisal.

As with some other appraisals in the area of immunosuppression, issues around swallowing may have to be considered as part of the committee's deliberations and specific recommendations may be required to address this.

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):** ...Linda Landells .....

**Date:** 3 Mar 2022