

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

STA Foslevodopa-foscarbidopa for treating Parkinson's with motor symptoms

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

Consultation

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

The following equalities issues were raised at scoping and discussed by committee during the first meeting:

- Older people who may not be deemed suitable for deep-brain stimulation or levodopa-carbidopa intestinal gel, or for whom these treatments are not accessible (for example, those not close to a specialist centre)
- Those people who have apomorphine contraindicated because they either exhibit psychosis or orthostatic hypotension
- People with Parkinson's disease who may face difficulties in accessing and using the technology (for example, due to a need for refrigeration and during the initial phase of getting used to using the administration pump)
- People with visual impairments who may have difficulties with using the administration pump.

The committee noted that if the technology is recommended, a clinician would need to determine if it is suitable for a person with Parkinson's by considering their individual needs. This would include any difficulties they might have using foslevodopa–foscarbidopa.

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?

1. Parkinson's UK highlighted the following additional equalities issues during the appraisal process:
 - Cognitive impairments: pump adjustment relies on good visual function. Also people with cognitive impairment may find the device harder to use than oral therapy
 - Age: condition predominantly impacts people over 65 years old, but thousands of working age people are also living with the condition
 - Physical disabilities: Parkinson's is a movement related disorder
2. One clinical expert also commented that pump-based therapies might be less acceptable in some cultural or ethnic groups

The committee noted that if the technology is recommended, a clinician would need to determine if it is suitable for a person with Parkinson's by considering their individual needs. This would include any difficulties they might have using foslevodopa–foscarbidopa.

The committee acknowledged that age and disability are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. The committee concluded that none of the issues raised were equality issues relevant to the recommendation. This is because the committee's recommendation does not restrict access to treatment for some people over others.

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

None

4. Do the preliminary 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 preliminary 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?
No

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the draft guidance, and, if so, where?
Yes, section 3.19.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Ross Dent

Date: 18/05/2023

Final draft guidance

(when draft guidance issued)

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

The following equality issue was raised during draft guidance consultation and discussed by committee during the second meeting:

- The committee's decision to not recommend foslevodopa–foscarbidopa could mean that older people with Parkinson's, especially those over 75 and who are unsuitable for deep brain stimulation and less likely to have surgery for levodopa-carbidopa intestinal gel will be disadvantaged. This transformative treatment could help manage their symptoms and improve their quality of life as it is less invasive. We support the position argued by clinical experts that foslevodopa–foscarbidopa might be a preferred treatment option, as the intervention is less invasive and easier to use.
- The recommendations changed after consultation (see section 2)

2. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that 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?

The recommendation has changed. The technology is recommended.

There are no specific groups that would find it more difficult to access the technology. The committee noted that if the technology is recommended, a clinician would need to determine if it is suitable for a person with Parkinson's by considering their individual needs.

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, 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?

Please see response to section 2.

4. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

The recommendation has changed. The technology is recommended. No further recommendations or explanations are needed.

5. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final draft guidance, and, if so, where?

Yes, in section 3.20 of the final draft guidance.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Ross Dent

Date: 16/10/2023