

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

SonoVue (sulphur hexafluoride microbubbles) – contrast agent for contrast-enhanced ultrasound imaging of the liver

Consultation

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

No potential equality issues were identified during scoping.

2. Have any other equality issues been raised in the second assessment subgroup meeting (if held) and in the evidence assessment and analysis report, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

Other equality issues were not raised.

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

The Committee considered possible equality impacts. It noted that although obesity may be a general barrier to the use of ultrasound in some people, its impact on image quality on an individual basis is unpredictable. The Committee concluded that the recommendations would be unlikely to disadvantage those with obesity falling in groups protected under equalities legislation.

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 access for the specific group?
No issues were identified.

5. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to access identified in question 4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?
No issues associated with access to the technology in the NHS were identified.

6. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the diagnostics consultation document, and, if so, where?
Yes. Considerations (Section 6).

Approved by Associate Director (name):Nick Crabb.....

Date: 28/06/2012

Diagnostics guidance document

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?
Other equality issues were not raised.

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 access for the specific group?
The recommendations did not change significantly after consultation.

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

The recommendations did not change significantly after consultation.

4. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the diagnostics guidance document, and, if so, where?

Yes. Considerations (Section 6).

Approved by Programme Director (name):Mirella Marlow...

Date: 28/06/2012