

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

## MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES EVALUATION PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment – Topic selection and scoping

#### **PleurX peritoneal catheter drainage system for vacuum assisted drainage of treatment-resistant, recurrent malignant ascites**

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

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the briefing note or during the Committee meeting, and, if so, what are they?

The sponsor's case for adoption is in people with treatment-resistant recurrent malignant ascites. The Committee noted that people with cancer are covered by equalities legislation under the protected characteristic of disability. The PleurX peritoneal catheter drainage system may enable patients to have independent control of their symptoms and fit treatment around their normal lives and so to promote equality of opportunity. The Committee considered that the PleurX peritoneal catheter drainage system may have the potential to improve the quality of life for such patients and, therefore, promote equality.

The Committee also noted that similar benefits may be realised by patients with non-malignant ascites.

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

The Committee recommended including quality of life as an outcome in the scope.

As the manufacturer does not, the their case for adoption, claim benefits in

people with non-malignant ascites, and expert advice indicates that the considerations in such patients are significantly different – including the possibility that treatment with Pleurx could be harmful - no further action is required.

3. Does the scope need to highlight any potential equality issues? If so, how?

Quality of life has been included as an outcome in the scope.

**Approved by Associate Director (name): Mark Campbell**

**Date:** 6 July 2011