

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Equality and health inequality impact assessment

Ex-situ machine perfusion devices to preserve deceased donor livers for transplantation

Draft guidance

- 1 Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the committee? If so, how?**

The committee considered the equality issues identified during the scoping process. It noted that draft guidance recommends that ex-situ machine perfusion devices should be routinely available across liver transplant centres. Implementation of these recommendations is expected to increase organ utilisation, which should have a positive impact on all the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process, through system-level effects.

- 2 Have the potential health inequality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the committee? If so, how?**

The committee considered the health inequality issues identified during the scoping process. It heard from clinical and lived experience experts that funding of ex-situ machine perfusion technologies typically comes from local charitable sources rather than core NHS funding, leading to unequal access to these devices across the UK. The committee noted that the draft recommendations support the routine availability of ex-situ machine perfusion devices through core NHS funding, with the aim of reducing unwarranted variation in access across transplant centres and preventing inequities in liver allocation arising from differences in local capacity for machine perfusion. The committee also noted

planned changes to the liver transplantation pathway but agreed that the routine use of ex-situ machine perfusion technologies at liver transplant centres will likely be of continued benefit to people who need a liver transplant and help address the current variation in service provision.

- 3 Have any other potential equality or health inequality issues been raised in information submitted by stakeholders or in the external assessment report? If so, how has the committee addressed these?**

No.

- 4 Have any other potential equality or health inequality issues been identified by the committee? If so, how has the committee addressed these?**

No.

- 5 Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult for a specific group to access the technology than other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for this group?**

No.

- 6 Has the committee made any reasonable adjustments within its recommendations for the equality issues identified? That is, have any adjustments to the recommendations been made to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to the technology needed to fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality.**

No.

- 7 Has the committee taken into consideration the health inequality issues in its decision-making? If so, how was this done?**

Equality and health inequality impact assessment – Ex-situ machine perfusion devices to preserve deceased donor livers for transplantation

Yes. The draft recommendations support the routine availability of ex-situ machine perfusion devices through core NHS funding, with the aim of reducing unwarranted regional variation in access to these technologies.

8 Have the committee’s considerations of equality and health inequality issues been described in the draft guidance? If so, where?

Yes. Variation in access to ex-situ machine perfusion technologies is discussed in section 1 and 3.3, 3.7, 3.35, 3.48, 3.49 and 3.50.

Approved by senior responsible officer: Janet Robertson

Date: 13/05/2026

Final draft guidance (when issued)

9 Have any additional potential equality or health inequality issues been raised during consultation on the draft guidance? If so, how has the committee addressed these?

[add answer]

10 Have any additional potential equality or health inequality issues been identified by the committee? If so, how has the committee addressed these?

[add answer]

11 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, do the updated recommendations make it more difficult for a specific group to access the technology than other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for this group?

[add answer]

- 12** If the recommendations have changed after consultation, has the committee made any other reasonable adjustments in the recommendations for the equality issues identified? That is, have any adjustments to the recommendations been made to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to the technology needed to fulfil NICE’s obligations to promote equality.

[add answer]

- 13** Has the committee taken into consideration the health inequality issues in its decision-making? If so, how was this done?

[add answer]

- 14** Have the committee’s considerations of equality and health inequality issues been described in the final draft guidance? If so, where?

[add answer]

Approved by senior responsible officer: [name]

Date: XX/XX/20XX