

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

STA Inhaled treprostinil for treating pulmonary hypertension with interstitial lung disease

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?

During draft scope consultation consultees highlighted that:

- access to pulmonary hypertension services is needed to be able to screen and treat a larger group of patients to avoid any inequity
- appropriate investigations need to be carried out locally, as patients may be unwilling to travel long distances for investigations, which may also entrench inequalities in access to treatment
- people will need to be educated on how to prime and use the inhaler device needed for inhaled treprostinil
- consideration will need to be given to how it would be administered in people who have issues with dexterity or carrying out complicated processes

The committee discussed these issues during the evaluation process. But noted these would not normally be considered equalities issues for the committee to address within its recommendation.

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?

The following additional issues were raised in the submissions and expert statements:

- people may have disabilities that limit their exercise capacity so safeguards would need to be in place to ensure that these people would not be excluded:
 - Especially if a recommendation relied upon criteria based upon exercise capacity over a threshold to access treatment or improvement in exercise capacity to allow continued use of therapy
- A patient expert, professional organisation and patient organisation noted there is limited access to specialist ILD or PH centres.
 - Many ILD specialist centres do not have easy access to RHC so many people who would benefit from having inhaled treprostinil would not be able to access it
 - People living in remote areas, away from RHC centres will find it difficult to access and people from socially deprived groups may find the cost and effort of getting to an RHC centre is prohibitive.
 - If access to a Pulmonary Hypertension Specialist Centre is needed for diagnosis/prescribing, it could limit people who find travel difficult

The committee noted these would not normally be considered equalities issues for the committee to address within its recommendation.

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

No.

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?

N/A

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the appraisal consultation document, and, if so, where?

Yes, in section 3.23.

Approved by Associate Director (name): ...Richard Diaz.....

Date: 15 Jan 2026