

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE
EXCELLENCE**

Equality and health inequality impact assessment

**Catumaxomab for intraperitoneal treatment
of malignant ascites caused by EpCAM-
positive carcinomas when further systemic
anticancer treatment is unsuitable ID6580**

Scoping

- 1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process? If so, what are they?**

Stakeholders raised concerns that there is inequality in access to current standard of care for people who have recurrent malignant ascites. This means some people with recurrent malignant ascites receive paracentesis as a hospital inpatient, whereas some NHS providers offer this as a day clinic procedure. People with recurrent malignant ascites are nearing end-of life and minimising medical appointments would be beneficial.

- 2 Have any potential health inequality issues been identified during the scoping process? If so, what are they?**

No

- 3 What is the preliminary view as to what extent the committee needs to address the potential issues set out in questions 1 and 2?**

The committee will consider the equalities issues presented. However, treatment availability based on geographical location is outside of the remit of a NICE technology appraisal.

- 4 Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight the potential equality or health inequality issues set out in questions 1 and 2 following the scope consultation?**

No changes have been made to the scope.

- 5 Has the stakeholder list been updated as a result of additional equality or health inequality issues identified during the scoping process?**

No changes have been made to the stakeholder list.

Approved by senior responsible officer: Ross Dent

Date: 22/10/2025

Draft guidance (if issued)

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

Issues identified at scoping were not considered equality issues.

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

No health inequality issues were identified at scoping.

- 8 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 further equality or health inequality issues were raised by stakeholders after scoping.

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

The committee identified that malignant ascites is associated with advanced or metastatic cancer and late-stage cancer is more common in people from more socioeconomically deprived areas and people who are from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority groups. It also considered that malignant ascites may be more common in females compared to males because malignant ascites is more prevalent in ovarian cancer.

The committee considered that because the recommendation does not restrict access to treatment for some people over others, the committee decided these were not potential equality or health inequality issues that it could address.

10 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.

11 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 reasonable adjustments have been made within its recommendation for the equality issues identified during the evaluation because the recommendation does not restrict access to treatment for some people over others.

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

No robust evidence was presented to the committee to show that catumaxomab substantially affects health inequalities.

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

Yes, in section 3.25 of the draft guidance.

Approved by senior responsible officer: Ross Dent

Date: 01/07/2026