

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Quantitative faecal immunochemical tests to assess symptomatic people who are at low risk of colorectal cancer in primary care

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

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (scoping workshop discussion, assessment subgroup discussion), and, if so, what are they?

During scoping it was identified that older people and Jewish people of central and eastern European family origin are at increased risk of colorectal cancer. People with cancer are protected under the Equality Act 2010 from the point of diagnosis.

Faecal haemoglobin concentrations may be greater in men than women, and may also increase with age.

The tests may not be suitable for use in people with an existing diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease, some of whom may be covered by the disability provision of the Equality Act 2010. People with a visual impairment or other disabilities may need support to obtain and submit a stool sample, and to understand the purpose of the test and the implications of the test results.

Cultural preferences may influence the acceptability of tests that require collection of a stool sample.

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

Differences in prevalence between groups of people are a characteristic of the disease and cannot be addressed within a NICE assessment. The

Committee will consider whether faecal haemoglobin levels may vary according to age and sex, and if this could impact the clinical effectiveness of the test. The Committee will also consider whether its recommendations could have a different impact on people protected by the equality legislation than on the wider population.

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

Faecal haemoglobin concentrations may be greater in men than women, and may also increase with age. Age and sex have been included as population subgroups and will be included in analyses where evidence permits to determine whether alternative test cut-off values are needed.

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No additional stakeholders have been identified.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Carla Deakin.....

Date: 10 March 2016