

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Tumour profiling tests to guide adjuvant chemotherapy decisions in lymph node-positive early breast cancer

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 (development and scoping consultation), and, if so, what are they?

Breast cancer is underdiagnosed and often undertreated in men. Some tests or tools may not be validated for use in men with breast cancer (both in the comparator and intervention categories). Clinical and manufacturer advice is that the tumour profiling tests can likely be used for men with breast cancer, but could perform differently.

Women from South Asian, Black African or Caribbean family backgrounds are more likely to have less favourable breast tumour characteristics at diagnosis (stage, grade, ER or HER2 status) compared with white women, and are more likely to be diagnosed younger.

Some NHS trusts are already offering tumour profiling tests to inform chemotherapy decisions for people with LN positive early breast cancer. There is therefore a level of geographic inequality in access to tumour profiling tests for the LN positive population in current practice.

Some people with comorbidities may have particular reason to want to avoid chemotherapy as they may be particularly susceptible to side effects such as cardiac toxicity. Some people with comorbidities may be protected by the disability provision of the Equality Act 2010.

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

Sex, ethnicity and people with comorbidities are defined as subgroups in the scope. Depending on the availability of evidence, the EAG will investigate whether the accuracy of the tests, or clinical outcomes, differ by sex or ethnicity. This will help the committee make their decision.

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

Subgroups for sex, ethnicity, and people with comorbidities will be included in the analysis if evidence permits.

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): Rebecca Albrow

Date: 29/03/2023