

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Equality impact assessment

GID-HTE10084 Ex-situ machine perfusion devices for lung transplants

Scoping

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

Several potential equality considerations have been identified within the scope of assessing these technologies. Key considerations include:

- End-stage respiratory failure can significantly affect a person's daily life. Under the Equality Act 2010, a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to do typical day-to-day activities.
- [NHS Blood and Transplant's annual report on lung transplantation](#) reports that adults from white ethnic groups on the non-urgent waiting list for lung transplants have shorter waiting times compared with people from Black ethnic groups.
- All the major religions and belief systems in the UK are open to the principles of organ donation and transplantation. Organ donation is a personal choice and views on the matter can vary even among individuals within the same faith ([NHS Blood and Transplant](#)).
- Fewer lung transplants are done in children and young people compared to adults. [NHS Blood and Transplant's annual report on lung transplantation](#) reports that, between 2024 and 2025, only 5 lung-only transplants in children were done across 2 specialist lung

transplant centres. Finding suitable donor lungs is more difficult for children and young people due to the need for appropriate size matching and for the donor lungs to support the child over a longer time. As there are fewer specialist centres for children and young people than adults, they may need to travel further or have more difficulty attending regular hospital appointments. They may also have access to fewer respiratory specialists, services or technologies compared with adults, which could mean that they experience delays or experience variation in the care that they receive.

Age, disability, race, and religion or belief are protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010).

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

Potential considerations related to health inequalities include:

- People living in more rural areas or further away from transplant centres may have more difficulty attending regular hospital appointments. They may also have access to fewer respiratory specialists in their area, which could mean that they experience delays in referral, assessments and being put on the waiting list.
- Some lung transplant centres may also have access to more specialised services or technologies. People receiving transplants at centres without access to these services may experience variations in care compared with people with access. This may impact a person's opportunities for transplant or their outcomes after surgery.

Clinical experts have stated that ex-vivo machine perfusion devices could be used for every person active on the waiting list for a lung transplant. The implementation of ex-situ machine perfusion technologies and introduction of assessment and recovery centres

may give people more access to machine perfusion devices, potentially reducing geographical health inequalities.

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 should consider all potential equality issues and health inequalities when making recommendations.

4 Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight the potential issues set out in questions 1 and 2?

The potential equality considerations are described in section 8 of the scope. No additional amendments were made after the scoping workshop.

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

No additional stakeholders were added after the scoping workshop as a result of additional equality or health inequality issues or considerations identified during scoping.

Approved by associate director: Janet Robertson

Date: 04/03/2026

Draft guidance (if issued)

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

[add answer]

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

[add answer]

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?

[add answer]

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

[add answer]

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?

[add answer]

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.

[add answer]

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

[add answer]

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

[add answer]

Approved by senior responsible officer: [name]

Date: XX/XX/20XX

Final draft guidance (when issued)

1 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]

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

[add answer]

3 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]

- 4 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]

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

[add answer]

- 6 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