

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE
EXCELLENCE**

Equality and health inequality impact assessment

**HTG10165 Surgical mesh for treatment of
non-primary ventral hernias (provisional
title)**

Scoping

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

Several potential equality issues have been identified. The key issues include:

- People's religious and cultural background may affect their views and access to mesh. People may potentially avoid animal derived meshes due to cultural or religious beliefs ([Koshy RM et al., 2020](#)).
- Preoperative optimisation is recommended for people with comorbidities such as obesity and diabetes before hernia repair surgery. People from more deprived socioeconomic groups are more likely to have comorbidities such as obesity, smoking, or diabetes ([Madigan CD et al., 2025](#)). This can result in delay in elective surgery and impact surgical outcomes.

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

Several potential health inequality issues have been identified. The key issues include:

- Some people may need additional support to understand information about mesh types, benefits and risks of different available options. This

may include people with visual or hearing difficulties, cognitive impairment, difficulties with manual dexterity, a learning disability, people who are unable to read or understand health-related information (including people who cannot read English), neurodivergent people or people with mental health conditions. Consideration should be made to provide such information in a format that is accessible to them.

- Access to specialist hernia services can vary by region leading to differences in waiting time and treatment options.
- Some people would benefit from information on surgical mesh in languages other than English.
- Elective surgery is common in hernia repair. However, people living in the most deprived areas are more than twice as likely to experience wait of over a year for elective surgery compared with those in the least deprived areas ([Jefferies D, 2023](#)).

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 the equality and health inequality issues when making recommendations.

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 scoping workshop?

The language in section 6 of the draft scope has been amended to remove references of groups of people having more “positive” or “negative” views about mesh than others. Instead, factors that may inform views on mesh safety have been added: socioeconomic factors, personal experience and experience of others (e.g. with regards to mesh-related complications, wound problems, or chronic pain).

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

Not applicable

Approved by senior responsible officer: Lizzy Latimer

Date: 21/05/2026

Draft guidance (if issued)

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

[add answer]

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

[add answer]

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?

[add answer]

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

[add answer]

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?

[add answer]

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.

[add answer]

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

[add answer]

13 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)

14 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]

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

[add answer]

- 16 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]

- 17 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]

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

[add answer]

- 19 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