

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Equality impact assessment

Interventional procedure HTG641/IPG739 (IP1790-2)

Neurostimulation of lumbar multifidus for refractory chronic low back pain

Scoping

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

Chronic low back pain is more common among women than men affecting 54% of women compared to 49% of men . Factors such as multiple pregnancies are associated with increased risk of low back pain in women.

Low back pain is the leading cause of disability in the UK. People with refractory chronic low back pain with lumbar multifidus dysfunction may be covered by the Equality Act 2010 if their symptoms have a substantial adverse effect on day to day activities for longer than 12 months.

Some people with a physical disability, cognitive impairment or complex comorbidities may find it more difficult to undergo this procedure or to use a stimulation device.

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

People from more deprived areas are more likely to have back pain .

People from minority ethnic groups, may have problems accessing specialist services, because of barriers such as language, and cultural

differences. As a result they may be less likely to receive this procedure.

The procedure is currently available in a limited number of specialist centres. This geographic variation may disadvantage people in areas without access to this treatment.

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 potential equality issues during decision making, with a particular focus on barriers to access to the procedure and if any adjustments are needed to ensure equality with regards to the relevant protected characteristics.

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

No. The equality issues are described in section 7 of 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 additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues have been identified during the scoping process.

Approved by associate director: Lizzy Latimer

Date: 23/06/2026