

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**Equality impact assessment**

**GID-IPG10441 Unilateral and staged-  
bilateral MRI-guided focused ultrasound  
thalamotomy for medication-refractory  
essential tremor**

**Scoping**

- 1 **Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process? If so, what are they?**
  - Essential tremor is more common in older people. In the UK, the incidence is highest among people aged 60-79 years ([Antonazzo 2022](#)).
  - In the UK, essential tremor is more common in males than in females ([Antonazzo 2022](#)).
  - People with essential tremor may be covered by the Equality Act 2010 under the disability provision if their condition has had a substantial adverse impact on normal day to day activities for over 12 months.
  - There is currently only one device available to do this procedure. For the treatment of essential tremor, the device is only intended for use in adults aged 22 and older.
  - The available device used in the procedure is contraindicated for use in people who are pregnant.

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

- The procedure is currently available at four centres in the UK, but only two centres (St Mary's Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust London, and The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust in Liverpool) provide it as part of routine NHS practice. Due to limited availability geographically, some people may not be able to access it, particularly those find travelling more difficult, such as people who are older, more frail, and with limited mobility.

**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 potential issues on the impact of MRI-guided focused ultrasound thalamotomy presented in sections 1 and 2 will be noted by the committee and inform discussions where appropriate. If all the evidence used to make the recommendation is in adults aged 22 and older, then this will be acknowledged in the guidance for transparency.

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

Yes, more details on potential equality issues due to limited availability geographically have now been added

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

No

**Approved by associate director:** Rebecca Albrow

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