

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

Mepolizumab for maintenance treatment of uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with raised blood eosinophils [ID1237]

The impact on equality has been assessed during this appraisal according to the principles of the NICE equality scheme.

Final draft guidance

(when no draft guidance was issued)

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

At scoping, stakeholders identified potential equality issues around socioeconomic status and access to COPD care. The committee noted that people from socioeconomically deprived backgrounds are more likely to have COPD and have raised exacerbations, hospitalisation and mortality risks. It also noted they are also more likely to have comorbidities that may affect COPD management.

The committee also considered that the ability to access care or attend appointments may vary based on geographical location.

The committee noted that access to care was not something that can be addressed in a technology appraisal. It acknowledged the inequalities associated with COPD, but considered that it had not been presented with convincing evidence of how mepolizumab may impact health inequalities.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the submissions, expert statements or academic report, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No additional equality issues raised – equality issues raised in the submissions, expert statements or academic report were the same as at scoping stage (socioeconomic status and access to COPD care).

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the committee, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No other potential equality issues were identified by the committee.

4. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No

5. Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No

6. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 4 or 5, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

Not applicable

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the appraisal consultation document, and, if so, where?

Yes, section 3.16 of the final draft guidance.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Ian Watson

Date: 20 May 2026