

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

DIAGNOSTICS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Hybrid closed loop systems for managing blood glucose levels in type 1 diabetes

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

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (scoping workshop discussion, assessment subgroup discussion), and, if so, what are they?

During scoping it was noted that some of the hybrid closed loop systems available in the UK are not licensed for use in children under 6 or 7 years old and in pregnancy. In addition, the following potential equality issues were highlighted:

- People with certain skin conditions or allergies may be unable to wear a sensor.
- People with learning difficulties and people whose vision or hearing does not allow recognition of pump signals and alarms may have difficulty in using the technologies.
- People who have had diabetes for many years and older people may have impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia.
- There may be a need for tighter glucose control in pregnant women.
- Younger children may need help to operate the device every time and toddlers may have more limited management options.
- People from ethnic minority are less likely to be offered technology as therapy; this may be because of a language barrier.
- People from deprived backgrounds and those who are less educated may be less likely to use the technology; this may be because of less awareness of their options
- People with cystic fibrosis might be more likely to get diabetes.
- People with blood clotting disorders such as haemophilia might not be able to do finger prick testing.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the committee?

The potential equality issues will be considered by committee during decision making. Children and pregnant women will be considered as sub-groups because of the potential differences in how they may use technology to manage their condition. If evidence is available, outcomes in children will be analysed split into 3 age groups:

- 5 years and under
- 6 – 11years
- 12- 19years

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

The potential equality issues have been described throughout the scope and specifically in the equalities section of the scope. Because the different sub-groups have different considerations relating to their use of technologies, the comparators for the assessment have been clearly defined where they differ for a sub-group.

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No additional stakeholders have been identified.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Rebecca Albrow

Date: 18/03/2021