

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## Health Technology Evaluation

### Equality impact assessment – Scoping

#### **Pembrolizumab with pemetrexed and platinum-based chemotherapy for untreated unresectable advanced malignant pleural mesothelioma**

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

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

The following were raised by stakeholders:

- The condition predominantly affects elderly men with more than 50% of diagnosis occur in people aged 75 and older, and between 2016 and 2018 83% of diagnoses were in men. Age and sex of are protected characteristics.
- The condition has been linked to those who work in construction or manufacturing who are exposed to asbestos directly in the workplace. There is growing evidence of other occupations developing asbestos-related diseases from other workplace areas who do not come into direct contact with asbestos, such as hospitals and schools (teachers, doctors, nurses and other employees).

Several additional issues were raised during the development of the guidance on nivolumab with ipilimumab, [TA818](#):

- Condition is preventable and incidence rates vary but are higher in areas of heavy industry. As mesothelioma is linked with industrial jobs, patients may be in lower socioeconomic groups compared to other cancer types. It has been recognised that people from lower

socioeconomic backgrounds experience health inequality and fare less well with most diseases including malignancy.

- Patients often diagnosed when they are older and at a late stage in the disease so may be too frail to travel for treatment, which can limit their treatment options.
- Patients not able to self-fund or pay for treatment from funding from a compensation claim at a disadvantage. If the technology is only available in private / self-funding settings an inequality may be generated.
- Mesotheliomas rarely occur in the pericardium or peritoneum

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

The committee will consider whether its recommendations could have a different impact on people protected by the equality legislation (i.e. by age and sex) than on the wider population. However, issues related to differences in prevalence or incidence of a disease cannot usually be addressed in a technology appraisal.

Geographical access to the treatment is not a protected characteristic within NICE's remit when making recommendations. If recommended, the technology would be available for all regardless of people's age (covered within the marketing authorisation of the technology). These are not equality issues.

Socioeconomic factors can be considered by the appraisal committee if deemed by committee to be a relevant health inequality.

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

No.

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.

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Jasdeep Hayre      **Date:** 10 June 2024