

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

#### **STA Dupilumab for maintenance treatment of uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with raised blood eosinophils [ID6235]**

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

#### **Final draft guidance**

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

At consultation, stakeholders highlighted that COPD has been identified as a health inequalities priority for NHS England. Stakeholders added that people with COPD are disadvantaged through social inequalities, are typically older and have co-morbidities. They added that COPD and exacerbations of COPD more prevalent in people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The impact of higher admissions during winter is also felt most acutely in this population. Stakeholders were concerned that that there seems to be a general opinion that people with COPD had ‘done it to themselves by smoking’ but this is not the case for heart disease, diabetes or obesity, which are equally linked to lifestyle choices. Stakeholders added that committee must consider how new medicines may improve COPD care pathway and increase access to basic care for people with COPD who are most in need. They added that it is in NICE’s remit to ensure that health inequalities are not further increased. The committee acknowledged stakeholders’ concerns about health inequalities. It also acknowledged that a positive recommendation would have greater impact on people from lower socioeconomic groups. It accepted that this could play a role in reducing health inequalities and took this into account in determining its preferred ICER threshold.

2.	If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that 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	

3.	If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?
No	

4.	If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?
No	

5.	Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final draft guidance, and, if so, where?
Yes – see final draft guidance section 3.17.	

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Ian Watson

**Date:** 19 January 2026