

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

#### STA Nemolizumab for treating moderate to severe prurigo nodularis

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

#### Consultation

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| 1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how?   |
| <p>The committee reviewed the potential equality issues identified during scoping. There were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. One consultee noted that there may be a higher prevalence of prurigo nodularis in people of Black African and Black Caribbean ethnicity and that prurigo nodularis is more prevalent in people of South Asian and East Asian ethnicity in the UK. Prurigo nodularis may be more common in women.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The committee agreed that issues related to differences in prevalence or incidence of a disease cannot be addressed in a technology appraisal.</li></ul></li><li>2. The committee for TA955 (dupilumab for treating moderate to severe prurigo nodularis) was also mindful that tools for assessing severity and response may not be sensitive enough in people with darker skin pigmentation.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The committee noted that if it had recommended nemolizumab, it would have taken into account how skin colour could affect the measurement of severity of disease.</li></ul></li></ol> |

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?

A stakeholder highlighted that assessment of itch severity, sleep quality and quality of life may be more difficult in people with visual, hearing or cognitive impairment or communication difficulties. The committee was aware that the challenges highlighted were not limited to this disease area. A professional organisation highlighted that the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), which was used in the OLYMPIA trials to measure quality of life, may not adequately capture impact in older people or those not in a relationship, and may poorly capture anxiety and depression, which may be more common in people with prurigo nodularis. Because the committee did not recommend nemolizumab, there was no need to reflect these potential issues in the preliminary recommendations.

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

No further 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?
N/A	

7.	Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the appraisal consultation document, and, if so, where?
Yes, in section 3.15.	

**Approved by Principal Technical Adviser (name):** Elizabeth Bell

**Date:** 17/03/2025