

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Health Technology Evaluation

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Orforglipron for managing overweight and obesity ID6516

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?

Yes. During scoping consultation, stakeholders raised the following equality issues:

Cardiometabolic risk occurs at a lower BMI for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African, or African-Caribbean family backgrounds.

It was suggested that ethnicity-specific BMI thresholds recommended by NICE provide a pragmatic approach to defining overweight and obesity in these populations, typically reducing the obesity cut-off by about 2.5 kg/m² (from 30 kg/m² to 27.5 kg/m²) to enable earlier detection and intervention in these populations.

That socioeconomic status influences the incidence and impact of obesity.

Stakeholders also suggested that there is evidence that people living with chronic kidney disease who are socioeconomically deprived often have faster disease progression and this population often has higher rates of obesity.

That there is inequality in the access to other treatments for other disabilities or conditions for people living with overweight or obesity

Stakeholders also noted that there has been limited access to specialist weight management services across the UK. Although there have been changes to the structure of weight management services since the

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Equality impact assessment for the Health Technology Evaluation of Orforglipron for managing overweight and obesity [ID6516]

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recommendation of tirzepatide in TA1026 ICBs are at varying stages of development and maturity. Consequently, the availability and readiness of pathways to support the delivery of orforglipron will differ across ICB footprints. This could result in there still being some inequality in access to treatment throughout England.

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

Where appropriate and relevant, the committee may consider the BMI thresholds for people from ethnic minority backgrounds during the appraisal.

Socio-economic status and incidence of obesity: Although socioeconomic status is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, where appropriate, the committee may consider the impact on population groups experiencing health inequalities arising from socioeconomic factors during the appraisal. The appraisal should consider the impact of recommendations on people with protected characteristics.

Potential inequality in access to treatment: Issues related to access to services cannot be addressed in a technology appraisal, but a concern will be raised with the implementation team.

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

Background information includes reference to NICE guideline 246 which notes that for some ethnic groups overweight is defined by a BMI of 23 kg/m² to 27.4 kg/m² and obesity by a BMI of 27.5 kg/m² or above. In addition, the scope population has been updated to specify that lower BMI thresholds are used for people from some ethnic minority backgrounds.

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): Ian Watson

Date: 27 November 2025