

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Health Technology Evaluation

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Low-dose atropine eye drops for treating myopia in people 3 to 14 years [ID6517]

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 – consultees have highlighted the following potential equality issues:

- Children from more deprived areas / lower socio-economic groups are less likely to receive interventions for myopia management than those in more affluent areas.
- People from Asian/East Asian family backgrounds are more likely to have myopia and also have more rapid progression to higher levels of myopia than Caucasians. People from Asian/East Asian family backgrounds also have myopia that responds less well to treatment.
- There is an urgent need to provide equitable access for myopia management through NHS funding as current interventions are only available privately.
- Consideration should be given to how people will access the technology, that is, engagement with health care professionals. Education campaigns may support myopia awareness in different populations.

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

Severity, age and ethnicity have been included as subgroups in the final scope and evidence on the impact of these will be considered by the appraisal committee if evidence allows. If consideration is given to these subgroups, the committee will consider any equalities implications.

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

Yes – the following wording has been added to the background section: “Myopia-control glasses and contact lenses may be used to slow myopia progression but these are not available on the NHS”.

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):Lorna Dunning.....

Date: 20/11/25