

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## Health Technology Evaluation

### Equality impact assessment – Scoping

#### Povorcitinib for treating moderate to severe active hidradenitis suppurativa

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, a stakeholder noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• probable higher incidence in people of African descent and in those from lower socioeconomic background, and</li><li>• that peak prevalence (2%) is in females of child-bearing age.</li><li>• scarring also contributes to the mental health burden of hidradenitis suppurativa, as patients can experience stigma due to the effects on their appearance.</li></ul>

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?
Ethnicity and sex are protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Issues related to differences in prevalence or incidence of a disease cannot be addressed in a technology appraisal. The committee does not routinely take stigma associated with a condition into account when developing recommendations. But it can consider its potential impact where stigma may affect treatment effectiveness or the assessment of quality-of-life benefits.

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):** Ian Watson

**Date:** 20 May 2026