

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE
EXCELLENCE**

Equality and health inequality impact assessment

**Medicines for treating osteoporosis and
reducing the risk of fragility fractures
(review of TA160, TA161, TA204, TA464,
TA791 and TA991) [ID6689]**

Scoping

- 1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process? If so, what are they?**

During scoping consultation, it was noted that men, people from minority ethnic groups, very elderly people and people with disabilities are underrepresented in key clinical trials.

Men and trans women have access to fewer anabolic treatments for treating osteoporosis than women. This is because many anabolic treatments are only licensed in women.

People with certain disabilities may not be able to access secondary care services to access DXA scans for bone mineral density measurements.

Women who have experience menopause because non-age-related causes, such as primary ovarian insufficiency and premature ovarian insufficiency should be considered.

- 2 Have any potential health inequality issues been identified during the scoping process? If so, what are they?**

During scoping consultation, it was noted that people with a hip fracture or cognitive impairment may not be able to access secondary care services to access DXA scans for bone mineral density measurements.

There is large scale disparity across the UK in access to anabolic therapies and denosumab in primary care. This can be caused by denosumab being outside the local ICB formulary, lack of availability for appointments with trained clinicians to administer treatment and lack of clarity and communication with secondary care about length of treatment. Access was described as a postcode lottery.

3 What is the preliminary view as to what extent the committee needs to address the potential issues set out in questions 1 and 2?

The committee will consider the impact on equalities and health inequalities for any recommendations made.

The [update of NICE's guideline on osteoporosis](#) will consider equality issues related to assessment and diagnosis of osteoporosis.

Issues related to access to anabolic agents and denosumab cannot be addressed in this multiple technology appraisal.

4 Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight the potential equality or health inequality issues set out in questions 1 and 2 following the scoping workshop and scope consultation?

No changes were made to the scope apart from additional reference to the guideline wording about starting pharmacological treatment without a DXA scan if it would not be tolerated or not technically feasible. The committee will consider all potential equality issues during the appraisal process.

5 Has the stakeholder list been updated as a result of additional equality or health inequality issues identified during the scoping process?

No additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues were added.

Approved by senior responsible officer: Adam Brooke

Date: 04/06/2026