

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Equality and health inequality impact assessment

Artificial Intelligence technologies to assist histopathology for prostate cancer diagnosis ID6684

Scoping

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

No equality issues were identified. One equality consideration was raised as part of consultation comments.

Usability: to acknowledge that technologies should consider user interface accessibility and ensure they can be used by those with visual impairments and are compatible with assistive technologies where applicable.

Other considerations included:

Technology generalisability: The validity of AI algorithms depends on the data on which it is trained. Experts reported they were not aware of any reasons for differences in diagnostic accuracy across different ethnic groups. However, it was acknowledged that it was important to understand the representativeness of training data used to inform the algorithms to ensure diagnostic precision remains across patient groups.

Performance monitoring post deployment was also highlighted as necessary to ensure diagnostic performance remains consistent across institutions and patient populations.

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

There is significant variation in histopathology laboratories across the country due to differences in setup, workload, workforce capacity and the rate of digital adoption.

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 should consider all potential equality and health inequality issues and considerations when making recommendations.

If evidence exists on how these technologies perform across different demographic groups or in different geographical areas (where pathology laboratories vary), it should be considered by the committee.

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?

All equality considerations and other considerations have been included in the scope decision problem table.

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 have been identified during the scope process.

Approved by senior responsible officer: Lizzy Latimer

Date: 22/04/2026