

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Guidance development

STA Cemiplimab with platinum-based chemotherapy for untreated advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (rapid review of technology appraisal guidance TA1108)

The impact on equality has been assessed during this appraisal according to the principles of the NICE equality scheme.

Final draft guidance

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how?

In TA1108 at the first committee meeting a clinical expert stated during the committee meeting that for people with non-squamous non-small-cell lung cancer, pembrolizumab is given with pemetrexed plus platinum chemotherapy. In contrast, cemiplimab can be used without pemetrexed (given with paclitaxel plus platinum chemotherapy). The clinical expert considered this to be a potential equality issue because pemetrexed is associated with toxicity and may not be suitable for all people.

The committee noted that the clinical expert had not highlighted any groups with protected characteristics, as per the Equality Act 2010, for whom pemetrexed would not be suitable. The committee would welcome further comment during draft guidance consultation on any particular groups with a protected characteristic for whom pemetrexed would not be suitable. No comments on this were received during consultation. The committee noted that it had not identified any particular groups with a protected characteristic for whom pemetrexed would not be suitable. The committee thought that its recommendation would not have a different impact on people protected by the equality legislation than on the wider population.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the submissions, expert statements or academic report, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No.

3. Have any other potential equality issues been identified by the committee, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No.

4. Do the recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access the technology compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No.

5. Is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

6. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 4 or 5, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

The committee took into account all the equality considerations raised in its decision making.

7. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final draft guidance, and, if so, where?

Yes, in section 3.15.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Ross Dent

Date: 23/04/2026