

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment

IPG365 Interspinous distraction procedures for lumbar spinal stenosis causing neurogenic claudication

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE Equality scheme.

Scoping

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| 1. | Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (development of the scope or discussion at the Committee meeting), and, if so, what are they? |
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| No potential equality issues were identified. |
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| 2. | What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? If there are exclusions listed in the scope (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified? |
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| This was not thought to have an impact on the assessment of the procedure. No exclusions were applied. |
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| 3. | Has any change to the scope (such as additional issues raised during the Committee meeting) been agreed to highlight potential equality issues? |
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| No. |
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Consultation

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

Not applicable.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the overview, specialist adviser questionnaires or patient commentary, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

The overview pointed out that lumbar spinal stenosis is related to older age and this was reflected in the majority of the evidence presented in the overview.

The overview also pointed out that risk factors for lumbar spinal stenosis include congenital narrowing of the spinal canal (though much less common than degenerative), osteoarthritis (degenerative), hyperparathyroidism, Paget's disease, ankylosing spondylitis, Cushing's syndrome, and acromegaly. Equalities legislation can apply to people with these conditions. The evidence did not explicitly state if these conditions existed in the patients included in the studies.

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

No.

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| 5. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to access identified in question 4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to promote equality? |
| Not applicable. |

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| 6. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the consultation document, and, if so, where? |
| No. |

Final interventional procedures document

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| 1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these? |
| No. |

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| 2. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access a technology or intervention compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to access for the specific group? |
| Not applicable. |

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| 3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to access identified in question 2, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality? |
| Not applicable. |

4. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final interventional procedures document, and, if so, where?

No.

Approved by Programme Director: Mirella Marlow

Date: 8 November 2010