

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES PROGRAMME

### Equality impact assessment

#### IPG807

### VA ECMO for severe acute heart failure in adults

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

#### Briefing

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the briefing process (development of the brief or discussion at the committee meeting), and, if so, what are they?

The prevalence of heart failure slowly increases with age until about 65 years of age, and then more rapidly. Age is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010).

Pregnancy and maternity are protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010). Acute heart failure in pregnancy is relatively uncommon. Women, trans men and non-binary people who are pregnant and have established chronic conditions such as diabetes or hypertension, or have congenital or acquired heart disease are at greater risk of heart failure. The MBRRACE-UK report (Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care 2023 - lessons learned to inform maternity care from the UK and Ireland Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths and Morbidity 2019-21) recommended to update the ECMO guidance to include specific information on referral and admission of pregnant and recently pregnant women to ECMO services.

People with severe acute heart failure are likely to be covered by the Equality Act 2010 if their condition has had a substantial adverse impact on normal day to day activities for over 12 months or is likely to do so.

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 brief (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 brief (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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4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the committee meeting, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?
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No
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## Consultation

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the briefing process been addressed by the committee, and, if so, how?
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The committee considered all the equality issues when making recommendations (see sections 3.17 and 3.18).
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The committee also noted that there are few centres in the UK that specialise in managing severe acute heart failure and using VA ECMO, so, people in more rural areas may not have access to this procedure (section 3.16).
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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?
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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 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, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No

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

Not applicable

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 obligation to promote equality?

Not applicable

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

The committee's equality considerations are described in sections 3.16 to 3.18 of the guidance.

**Approved by Health Technology Assessment Adviser**

**Amy Crossley**

**Date:** 10/09/2025

### **Final interventional procedures document**

1. Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the committee addressed these?

No.

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, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

Not applicable

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

Not applicable

4. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could

make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?
Not applicable

5. Have the committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final interventional procedures document, and, if so, where?
Yes, the committee's considerations of equality issues have been described in sections 3.16 to 3.18 of the guidance.

**Approved by Programme Director**

**Anastasia Chalkidou**

**Date:** 16/9/2025