

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES EVALUATION  
PROGRAMME**

**Equality impact assessment – Guidance development**

**Spectra Optia for automated red blood cell exchange  
in patients with sickle cell disease**

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

**Consultation**

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| 1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how? |
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No equality issues were identified during the development of the scope.
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| 2. Have any other potential equality issues been highlighted in the sponsor's submission, or patient organisation questionnaires, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these? |
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No equality issues were identified during the development of the scope. It was noted that sickle cell disease is most common in people whose families originate from Africa, the Caribbean, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and Asia. This is a function of the clinical condition, not of the technology.
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It was noted at the Committee meeting that some people with sickle cell disease may be classed as disabled, and that disability is a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equality Act.
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The Committee also heard that specialist centres that treat people with sickle cell anaemia with the Spectra Optia apheresis system are concentrated in urban areas and are not equally equipped in terms of the treatments they offer. This means that some people have to travel long distances to receive
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treatment.

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

No other potential equality issues were identified.

4. Do the preliminary 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?

The preliminary recommendations do not hinder access to the technology for any specific group.

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?

No potential adverse impact has been identified.

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?

Not applicable.

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

No equality issues have been identified.

**Approved by Associate Director (name):** Mark Campbell

**Date:** 14 October 2015

### **Medical technologies guidance document**

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

No other potential equality issues were identified.

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 the technology compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to access for the specific group?

The final recommendations do not hinder access to the technology for any specific group.

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?

No potential adverse impact has been identified.

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 medical technologies guidance document, and, if so, where?

No potential equality issues have been identified.

**Approved by Programme Director (name):** Mirella Marlow

**Date:** 24 Feb. 16