

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Medical technologies evaluation programme

Equality impact assessment: Topic selection and scoping

MT477 Alpha-Stim AID for anxiety disorders

The impact on equality has been assessed during this evaluation according to the principles of the [NICE Equality scheme](#).

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the topic briefing note or during selection, and, if so, what are they?

Anxiety disorders can have a significant effect on individuals' daily lives. This may mean someone is disabled if their anxiety disorder has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to do daily activities. Disability is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. People from certain socially excluded groups that would benefit from psychological interventions might be less likely to access them, such as black and minority ethnic groups; older people; those in prison or in contact with the criminal justice system; and ex-service personnel. Young women are more likely to have anxiety disorder. Sex and age are all protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the committee?

No equality issues have been identified

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

During draft scope consultation, it was highlighted that people with poor dexterity and people with certain co-morbidities would need support to be able to use the device. The device is not currently available in the NHS, and people may be indirectly disadvantaged not being able to access this as a treatment option.

The accessibility of the device was included in the equality consideration in the scope.

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No.

Approved by Associate Director: Joanne Holden

Date: 23 March 2020