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

The committee were aware that the key equality issues for this condition are socioeconomic status and age. The committee considered these issues when making recommendations however they felt that both socioeconomic status and age were important causal factors rather than equality issues which would impact on access to services and treatment options. The committee did raise that there may be access issues in relation to recommendation 1.4.24 and 1.4.25 on the use of stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR). SABR is available in a smaller number of hospitals and people who are older or have low socioeconomic status may have greater difficulty travelling to access this treatment. However SABR treatment involves fewer appointments, an average of 5 compared to 20-30 with conventional radiotherapy which is likely to reduce the overall impact of any additional access requirements associated with SABR to an acceptable level. The committee therefore did not make any specific recommendations in relation to inequalities and were keen to promote and ensure equal access to effective and cost effective treatments for all.

3.2 Have any other potential equality issues (in addition to those identified during the scoping process) been identified, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

None.
3.3 Have the Committee’s considerations of equality issues been described in the guideline for consultation, and, if so, where?

The Committee’s consideration of equality issues is detailed in the committee discussion sections of the evidence reviews.

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

No

3.5 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

3.6 Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to services identified in questions 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE’s obligation to advance equality?

No. The Committee considered equality issues at each meeting and are satisfied that recommendations drafted are in line with the available evidence and best practice.

Completed by Developer ____________ Susan Spiers