

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

STA: Lenalidomide for the maintenance treatment of multiple myeloma after autologous stem cell transplantation

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

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (draft scope consultation and scoping workshop discussion), and, if so, what are they?

In consultation, it was noted that multiple myeloma is twice as common in populations of African and African–Caribbean family origin. At the scoping workshop, no evidence was received of differential access to therapy or prognosis in this group.

In addition, consultees commented that multiple myeloma mostly affects the elderly population. However, clinical specialists at the workshop stated advised that suitability for ASCT is predominantly a clinical judgement focusing on pre-existing comorbidities and performance status and that age should not be seen as a defining criterion.

Consultees commented that a subgroup of patients with underlying neurological conditions (for example, polio), for whom potentially neurotoxic therapies such as thalidomide and bortezomib are not clinically appropriate, would stand to benefit especially from this technology and that this represents an equalities issue. However, in the SPC for lenalidomide, it states that lenalidomide is structurally related to thalidomide and therefore the neurotoxic potential of lenalidomide associated with long-term use cannot be ruled out.

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

N/A

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

No changes to the scope required.

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

No

Approved by Associate Director (name): Frances Sutcliffe

Date: 01/11/2011