

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL PROGRAMME

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

MTA

Cetuximab (mono- or combination chemotherapy), bevacizumab (combination with non-oxaliplatin chemotherapy) and panitumumab (monotherapy) for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer after first-line chemotherapy (review of technology appraisal 150 and part-review of technology appraisal 118)

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?

During the scoping process, the following comment was received relating to potential equalities issues:

“A number of networks in the UK have already approved the use of cetuximab as a third line treatment for KRAS wild type mCRC patients ahead of NICE guidance.

Consequently, potential inequity could exist across current NHS clinical practice. Effectively, in some Trusts, patients would have access to cetuximab therapy in the third line setting, whilst in other areas patients would only have the option of appealing to an exceptional cases panel creating inequity for patients in accessing newer and more effective treatment options.

In addition, many patients are currently dying prematurely each year due to health inequalities and social differences (partly as a result of late diagnosis in patients) therefore action is required in reducing survival differences for metastatic colorectal cancer patients.”

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

Issue about variation in clinical practice: NICE has been established to address, with its guidance, variation in clinical practice.

General issue about health inequalities and social differences: This issue is considered to be outside the remit of a health technology appraisal, but will be presented to the Committee for information.

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

No.

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 additional stakeholders have been identified.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Elisabeth George

Date: 15/10/2010