

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Health Technology Evaluation

Equality impact assessment – Scoping

Anhydrous sodium thiosulfate (Pedmarqsi) for preventing ototoxicity caused by cisplatin chemotherapy in people aged 1 month to 17 years with localised solid tumours

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?

The company stated during consultation that:

- Preventing hearing loss is vital to enable children to reach their full potential. Once ototoxic induced hearing loss has occurred, management strategies are available, but these have limitations in compensating for irreversible damage to inner ear caused by cisplatin and do not restore patients' QoL compared to prevention of hearing loss. This treatment could significantly improve opportunities and prospects for children receiving cisplatin chemotherapy because it prevents hearing loss related disability. This is an innovative treatment for which the benefit of preventing disability may not be fully captured when quality of life is assessed.
- Management strategies (i.e. hearing aids, speech and language therapy) are offered through the NHS. However, higher quality equipment and support services available through private providers are costly, so there is potential inequality in managing hearing loss as patients from lower income backgrounds would not have equal access these services. This treatment could positively impact this inequity by offering a safe and effective treatment to prevent ototoxicity and avoid hearing loss (and the subsequent inequity) in children receiving cisplatin chemotherapy.

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

The potential issues raised cover 2 areas:

- This treatment has the potential to prevent hearing loss which can be considered a disability, which is a protected characteristic covered by the Equality Act 2010. This may be considered by the committee during the appraisal.
- Impact of socioeconomic status on access to treatments provided by private providers (i.e. beyond / outside the NHS). Although socioeconomic status is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, NICE's [equality report](#) says it will consider the impact on population groups experiencing health inequalities arising from socioeconomic factors. However, NICE's standard approach to economic modelling (the 'reference case') does not compare NHS healthcare with privately funded healthcare.

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 stakeholder list been made?

None.

Approved by Associate Director (name): Richard Diaz

Date: 7 Feb 2024