

Equality and Health Impact Assessment

All Wales wet (neovascular) age-related macular degeneration prescribing guidelines

AWTTC will fill in an Equality and Health Impact Assessment in parallel with each development stage of our projects. This will help us to follow the five ways of working for public bodies, and work to achieving the wellbeing goals, outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Date: 15/07/2026

1.	AWTTC contact details	Tel: 02921 826900 Email: awttc@wales.nhs.uk
2.	State the objectives of the project.	The aim is to agree general principles for starting, pausing and stopping treatment, the choice of treatment, and treat-and-extend (TRES) rules that can be applied for any medicine used in the different clinic setups in different units across NHS Wales.
3.	Evidence and background information considered. For example: • population data • staff and service users' data, as applicable • needs assessment • engagement and involvement findings • research • good practice guidelines • participant knowledge • list of stakeholders and how stakeholders have engaged in the development stages • comments from those involved in the designing and development stages	Degeneration of the macular and posterior pole was the cause of around 3% of certifications for visual impairment or blindness in the UK in 2009–2010. In a 2012 study wet age-related macular degeneration (wAMD; also known as neovascular AMD) was estimated to affect 263,000 people in the UK, with the prevalence predicted to rise to 339,000 by 2020 and to 683,000 by 2050. During the 2025–2026 financial year, NHS Wales spent over £28m on anti-VEGF treatment for retinal conditions, with approximately 77,000 injections administered. The impetus for the development of an <i>All Wales wet (neovascular) age-related macular degeneration prescribing guidelines</i> comes from the National Clinical Strategy for Ophthalmology: Delivering the future of ophthalmology in Wales. The guidelines have been developed with reference to: • <i>NHS England</i> • <i>Local health board guidelines</i>

	Population pyramids are available from Public Health Wales Observatory.	
4.	Who will this project affect?	Patients and public receiving treatment for wet AMD in Wales and NHS Wales healthcare professionals.

5.0 EQIA – How will the project impact on people?

Questions in this section relate to the impact on people based on the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act 2010, and other factors.

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
5.1 Age For most purposes, the main categories are people aged: - under 18 years; - between 18 and 65 years; - over 65 years.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on their age. [Note: For prescription medicines we expect the prescriber to have prescribed or advised their use within the terms of their UK marketing authorisations. Healthcare professionals should take note of the contraindications, warnings, safety recommendations and any monitoring needs for the medicine. These are explained in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for the medicine or the British National Formulary [add links]. Healthcare professionals should follow relevant professional guidance and take full responsibility for the decision when prescribing or advising the use of off-label or unlicensed medicines. This includes considering the contraindications, warnings, monitoring requirements and other safety recommendations for the medicine (MHRA guidance on off-label or unlicensed use of medicines)]	Any patient-facing resources produced will be provided on the AWTTC website in accessible formats that can be printed.	

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
5.2 Persons with a disability as defined in the Equality Act 2010 Those with physical impairments, learning disability, sensory loss or impairment, mental health conditions, long-term medical conditions such as diabetes.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people with a disability.	All related documents published on the AWTTC website will meet accessibility requirements. Any patient-facing materials will also be produced in easy read formats in Welsh and English.	
5.3 People of different genders: Consider men, women, people undergoing gender reassignment. N.B. Gender-reassignment is anyone who proposes to, starts, is going through or who has completed a process to change his or her gender with or without going through any medical procedures. Sometimes referred to as Trans or Transgender.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on their gender, or on people undergoing gender reassignment.		
5.4 People who are married or who have a civil partner.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on their marital status or being in a civil partnership.		
5.5 Women who are expecting a baby, who are on a break from work after having a baby, or who are breastfeeding.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on women who are expecting a baby, are breastfeeding, or are on a break from work after having a baby.	Prescribers should take account of the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) when prescribing any medicines for women	

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
They are protected for 26 weeks after having a baby whether or not they are on maternity leave.		who are pregnant, or who are breastfeeding.	
5.6 People of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin including non-English speakers, gypsies and travellers, migrant workers. The Runnymede Trust	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin. People of different race and ethnicities can have varying responses to medicines.		
5.7 People with a religion or belief or with no religion or belief. The term 'religion' includes a religious or philosophical belief. Implications of religious beliefs on selection of medicines (BMJ) In practice: guidance on religion, personal values and beliefs (General Pharmaceutical Council)	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people who have a religion or belief, or people with no religion of belief. Some medicines are made from certain animal products and people might not want to take them because of religion or belief.		
5.8 People who are attracted to other people of: - the opposite sex (heterosexual); - the same sex (lesbian or gay); - both sexes (bisexual). Stonewall	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on who they are attracted to.		

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
5.9 People who communicate using the Welsh language in terms of correspondence, information leaflets, or service plans and design.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people who communicate using the Welsh language. Any patient-facing materials will be produced in Welsh and English, in line with the Welsh language standards, including easy read booklets.	Any patient-facing materials will be produced in Welsh and English, in line with the Welsh language standards, including easy read booklets. These will be provided on the AWTTC website in accessible formats that can be printed.	
5.10 People according to their income related group.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on their income-related group. In Wales, all prescription medicines are free-of-charge for patients; positive recommendations through this project will not affect people depending on their income-related group.		
5.11 People according to where they live.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on where they live.		
5.12 Consider others who face health inequalities, such as: • Looked after and accommodated children and young people • Carers: paid/unpaid, family members • People who are homeless or those who experience	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people who face health inequalities.		

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
homelessness: people on the street; those staying temporarily with friends/family; those in hostels/B&Bs • People involved in the criminal justice system: offenders in prison or on probation, ex-offenders • People with addictions and substance misuse problems • People who have poor literacy • People living in remote, rural and island locations			
5.13 Consider any other groups and risk factors relevant to this project.			

6.0 HIA - How will the project impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Wales and help address inequalities in health?

Questions in this section relate to the impact on the overall health of individual people, and the impact on the population in Wales.

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts and any particular groups affected	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by)
6.1 People being able to access the service offered.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people's ability to access the service offered.		
6.2 People being able to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people's ability to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles.		
6.3 People in terms of their income and employment status.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of their income and employment status.		
6.4 People in terms of their use of the physical environment.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people's use of the physical environment.		
6.5 People in terms of social and community influences on their health.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of social and community influences on their health.		
6.6 People in terms of macro-economic, environmental and sustainability factors.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of macroeconomic, environmental and sustainability factors.		

7.0 Please fill in section 7.1 after completing the EqHIA, and fill in the action plan.

7.1 Please summarize the potential positive and/or negative impacts of the project.	Implementation of the resource being developed should improve vision and quality of life for patients living with wet AMD. The guideline facilitates people being treated equally across Wales when accessing treatment.
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Action plan for mitigation or improvement and implementation

	Action	Lead(s)	Timescale	Actions taken (<i>state who by</i>)
7.2 What are the key actions identified as a result of completing the EqHIA?	None identified			
7.3 Is a more comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessment or Health Impact Assessment needed?	No			
7.4 What are the next steps?	Consultation	AWTTC	July/August 2026	
7.5 Review of project and EqHIA	TBC	AWTTC	Ongoing	

AWTTC's EqHIA template is adapted from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board EHIA template.