

# NHS England: Equality and Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (EHIA) template

**A completed copy of this form must be provided to the decision-makers in relation to your proposal. The decision-makers must consider this assessment when they make their decision about your proposal.**

**1. Name of the proposal (policy, proposition, programme, proposal or initiative)<sup>1</sup>:** Stereotactic radiosurgery for medication-refractory essential tremor

**2. Brief summary of the proposal in a few sentences**

Essential tremor is the most common movement disorder. It causes parts of the body to move in an uncontrolled and repetitive manner, most commonly affecting the arms and hands. Drug treatment is the first line therapy for essential tremor. However, drug treatment will stop working for between a quarter and half of patients. Surgical intervention such as deep brain stimulation (DBS) or transcranial magnetic resonance guided ultrasound thalamotomy (TcMRgFUS) is offered to patients whose symptoms are significant and severe and have not responded to medication. This policy recommends that this new treatment is made available for patients with medication refractory essential tremor (ET) who are not suitable for TcMRgFUS.

Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) is an alternative method of producing a focal lesion in the brain by delivering very highly focussed radiation to the ventralis intermedius (VIM) nucleus of the thalamus, typically targeting one side to alleviate the tremor on the most severely affected side. The patient is awake during the procedure in which a stereotactic frame is first fixed to the patient's head and CT/MRI images acquired before treatment is delivered. It is usually done as a day case and the procedure takes approximately 1 – 1.5 hours. It is a minimally invasive neurosurgical procedure.

This is a supra regional specialist service given the clinical expertise required to deliver an effective and safe service for a small number of patients. However, after careful review, NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for patients.

<sup>1</sup> Proposal: We use the term proposal in the remainder of this template to cover the terms initiative, policy, proposition, proposal or programme.

### 3. Main potential positive or adverse impact(s) of the proposal for protected characteristic groups summarised

Please briefly summarise the main potential impact(s) (positive or negative) on people with the nine protected characteristics (as listed below). Central resources to help make these assessments can be found on the [Equality and Health Inequalities Network hosted on FutureNHS](#), but it may be appropriate to undertake further analysis/draw on your own data and information. Please state **N/A** if your proposal will not impact adversely or positively on the protected characteristic groups listed below.

| Protected characteristic groups                                                                               | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact(s) of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Main recommendation(s) from/in your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Age:</b> older people; middle years; early years; children and young people.                               | <p>This policy is not considered to have either a positive or negative impact for people in this protected characteristic group.</p> <p>Whilst essential tremor occurs in all ages, it is more common in older ages, and the prevalence rises considerably with age (Louis et al 2019). There is an estimated prevalence of 21.7% of people over the age of 95 years of having the condition (Louis et al 2010).</p> <p>The policy is restricted to adults (people 18 years or over) as there is insufficient evidence to confirm clinical effectiveness and safety in those patients who are not adults.</p> | All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.                                          |
| <b>Disability:</b> any long-term physical or mental impairment; substantially effecting day-to-day activities | Having a disability is not a risk factor for developing essential tremor. However,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.                                          |

| Protected characteristic groups                                       | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact(s) of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Main recommendation(s) from/in your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                       | <p>essential tremor can cause physical disability when not well controlled.</p> <p>This policy should have a positive impact on this group but travel times may affect this.</p> <p>In patients with multi comorbidity, frailty or other causes of disability this intervention may be of particular benefit as it is less invasive and can be performed as a day case.</p> <p>It is acknowledged those living with disability may find travelling to a specialist centre to receive this treatment a barrier.</p> | <p>NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for this group of patients.</p> <p>Commissioned providers should work with the patient and other relevant agencies (e.g. GP, Local Authority, charities) to ensure adequate referral access and attendance support for people living with disabilities.</p> <p>Treatment centres need to ensure eligible patients and carers are aware of the NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme: Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) - NHS (<a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a>).</p> |
| <p><b>Gender Reassignment and/or people who identify as Trans</b></p> | <p>Gender reassignment and being transgender are not known risk factors for essential tremor.</p> <p>The policy is therefore not considered to have either a positive or negative impact for people in this protected characteristic group.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Protected characteristic groups                                                                                  | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact(s) of your proposal                                                                                                                             | Main recommendation(s) from/in your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership<sup>2</sup>:</b><br>people married or in a civil partnership.                | Marriage status is not known to be a risk factor for essential tremor.<br><br>The policy is therefore not considered to have either a positive or negative impact for people in this protected characteristic group. | All patients who meet the inclusion criteria would be eligible for SRS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b><br>women while pregnant and during maternity leave                               | SRS is contraindicated for people who are pregnant.<br><br>The restriction on the use of SRS in pregnancy also applies for other indications.                                                                        | SRS should not be used in pregnancy.<br><br>Clinicians should work with patients of childbearing potential to ensure adequate contraception is used during treatment, if needed.<br><br>Any pregnant person will continue to receive best standard of care in line with current clinical practice. |
| <b>Race and ethnicity<sup>3</sup>:</b> including nationality language where intrinsically linked to nationality. | There is no known difference in prevalence of essential tremor in people from different ethnicities.                                                                                                                 | All patients who meet the inclusion criteria would be eligible for SRS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

<sup>2</sup> In relation to this protected characteristic a public authority subject to the PSED need only comply with the duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EqA 2010, but not advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

<sup>3</sup> Addressing racial inequalities is about identifying any ethnic group that experiences inequalities. Race and ethnicity includes people from any ethnic group incl. BME communities, non-English speakers, Gypsies, Roma and Travelers, migrants etc.. who experience inequalities so includes addressing the needs of BME communities but is not limited to addressing their needs, it is equally important to recognise the needs of White groups that experience inequalities. The Equality Act 2010 also prohibits discrimination on the basis of nationality and ethnic or national origins, issues related to national origin and nationality.

| Protected characteristic groups                                                         | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact(s) of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Main recommendation(s) from/in your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                         | <p>The policy intends equitable access to this treatment for all racial and ethnic groups.</p> <p>The policy is therefore not considered to have either a positive or negative impact for people in this protected characteristic group.</p>                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Religion and belief:</b> people with different religions/faiths or beliefs, or none. | <p>Religion and belief is not known to be a risk factor for essential tremor.</p> <p>The policy intends equitable access to this treatment for all religious and belief groups.</p> <p>The policy is therefore not considered to have either a positive or negative impact for people in this protected characteristic group.</p> | All patients who meet the inclusion criteria would be eligible for SRS.                                                                |
| <b>Sex:</b> men; women                                                                  | <p>Essential tremor may be more prevalent in men compared with women (Louis et al 2019).</p> <p>The policy intends equitable access to this treatment for all genders.</p>                                                                                                                                                        | All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.                                          |

| Protected characteristic groups                                  | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact(s) of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Main recommendation(s) from/in your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                  | The policy is therefore not considered to have either a positive or negative impact for people in this protected characteristic group.                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Sexual orientation:</b> Lesbian; Gay; Bisexual; Heterosexual. | <p>Sexual orientation is not known to be a risk factor for essential tremor. The policy proposes equitable access to this treatment for all racial and ethnic groups.</p> <p>The policy is therefore not considered to have either a positive or negative impact for people in this protected characteristic group.</p> | All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.                                          |

**What adjustments have been made, or can be made, within the proposal to meet the particular needs of people with access needs?**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Providers of the service should ensure that patient communication is delivered in a way that meets the patient's needs, in line with the NHS Accessible Information Standard.</p> <p>This is a supra regional specialist service given the clinical expertise required to deliver an effective and safe service for a small number of patients. However, after careful review, NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for these patients. Despite the increase in centres, it is still likely some patients will have to travel quite long distances. Travel times and journey complexity are an important factor for patients, and any carer(s), as they deliberate their treatment options. People who are members of protected characteristic groups or other groups that</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

experience health inequalities may find it more difficult than the general population to travel and therefore health inequalities may be inadvertently widened. The centres will support patients with their accommodation and transport requirements as necessary.

In implementing the policy, centres can support equitable access through co-ordinated approaches via the MDTs, ensuring that certain policies, procedures or programmes are in place. For example, high quality Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programmes, data collection systems to allow for equity audit, completing and implementing the findings of a holistic needs assessment, and supporting patients to access financial reimbursement schemes.

The service should work with the patient, any carers and other relevant agencies (e.g. GP, Local Authority, charities) to understand if any additional support is needed by the patient, and any carer(s), to access the service and their treatments. For example, by completing and then implementing the findings of a holistic needs assessment.

#### 4. Main potential positive or adverse impact for people who experience health inequalities

Please briefly summarise the main potential impact (positive or negative) on people at particular risk of health inequalities (as listed below). Central resources to help make these assessments can be found on the [Equality and Health Inequalities Network hosted on FutureNHS](#), but it may be appropriate to undertake further analysis/draw on your own data and information. Please state **N/A** if your proposal will not impact on patients who experience health inequalities.

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup> | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Looked after children and young people</b>        | The policy is restricted to adults (people 18 years or over) as there is insufficient evidence to confirm clinical effectiveness and safety in those patients who are not adults.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Not Applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Carers of patients:</b> unpaid, family members.   | <p>This policy should have a positive impact on this group but travel times may affect this.</p> <p>Essential tremor can have morbidity and mortality implications for patients, which could necessitate the need for more assistance with care and hospital visits.</p> <p>SRS offers a treatment option for these patients which can improve their quality of life and level of disability compared to medication alone.</p> | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for this group of patients.</p> <p>Providers will need to consider the support, care, and follow-up mechanisms a patient would require in order to reduce any impact on this group. In addition, the multidisciplinary team</p> |

<sup>4</sup> Please note many groups who share protected characteristics have also been identified as facing health inequalities.

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup>                                                                   | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                        | <p>Treatment may benefit carers who support patients with essential tremor by reducing the assistance required to complete work, reducing the burden on carers.</p> <p>This intervention may be of particular benefit as it is less invasive and can be performed as a day case.</p> <p>It is acknowledged carers and patients may find travelling to a specialist centre to receive this treatment a barrier.</p> | <p>(MDT) will need to consider the individual patient and carer needs.</p> <p>Treatment centres need to ensure eligible patients and carers are aware of the NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme/">Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</a>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Homeless people.</b> People on the street; staying temporarily with friends /family; in hostels or B&amp;Bs.</p> | <p>This policy should have a positive impact on this group but travel times may affect this.</p> <p>People experiencing homelessness are more likely to suffer from physical health problems and access to healthcare is difficult for this group (Crisis, 2011).</p> <p>Homelessness is not a known risk factor for essential tremor.</p>                                                                         | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for this group of patients.</p> <p>Commissioned providers should work with the patient and other relevant agencies to mitigate risk for homeless patients and facilitate access to the treatment, as well as clinical monitoring and follow-up appointments.</p> |

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup>                                                          | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                               | <p>All people within this group who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>This intervention may be of particular benefit as it is less invasive and can be performed as a day case.</p> <p>It is acknowledged people from this group may find travelling to a specialist centre to receive this treatment a barrier.</p>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>People involved in the criminal justice system:</b> offenders in prison/on probation, ex-offenders.</p> | <p>Being involved with the criminal justice system is not a known risk factor for essential tremor.</p> <p>All people within this group who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>People involved with the criminal justice should receive the same standard of healthcare as the wider community, including the identification and treatment of cancer.</p> | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>Treatment centres should work closely with prison healthcare services to enable people in the criminal justice system to have the same access to treatment as people in the wider community.</p> |

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup>                | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>People with addictions and/or substance misuse issues</b></p> | <p>This policy should have a positive impact on this group but travel times may affect this.</p> <p>Addiction and substance misuse is not a known risk factor for essential tremor.</p> <p>All people within this group who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>People with addiction/and or substance misuse issues might find it harder to maintain engagement with services.</p> <p>This intervention may be of particular benefit as it is less invasive and can be performed as a day case.</p> <p>It is acknowledged people from this group may find travelling to a specialist centre to receive this treatment a barrier.</p> | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for this group of patients.</p> <p>Treatment centres should work with the patient and other relevant agencies (e.g. GP, Local Authority, charities) to ensure access and ongoing attendance for people with substance misuse issues.</p> |
| <p><b>People or families on a low income</b></p>                    | <p>This policy should have a positive impact on this group but travel times may affect this.</p> <p>Chronic disease is known to have a financial impact on patients (Stuckler, 2012).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for this group of patients.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup>                                                                           | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                | <p>Living on a low income is not a known risk factor for essential tremor.</p> <p>This intervention may be of particular benefit as it is less invasive and can be performed as a day case.</p> <p>It is acknowledged people from this group may find travelling to a specialist centre to receive this treatment a barrier.</p> | <p>Commissioned providers should work with the patient and other relevant agencies (e.g. GP, Local Authority, charities) to ensure adequate referral access and attendance support for people of families on a low income.</p> <p>Treatment centres need to ensure eligible patients and carers are aware of the NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme/">Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</a>.</p>                                                                                        |
| <p><b>People with poor literacy or health Literacy:</b> (e.g. poor understanding of health services poor language skills).</p> | <p>People with poor literacy or health understanding may find it more difficult to understand their condition and the benefits and risks associated with different treatment options.</p> <p>This may limit their agency and ability to access SRS.</p>                                                                          | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>Shared decision making should be used using appropriate mediums including verbal, written shared decision-making tools, translated, and Easy Read materials.</p> <p>The provision of treatment should be provided in a way to assist those with poor health literacy skills. A holistic assessment of an individual should be undertaken by the prescribing physician to assess their suitability and understanding of compliance barriers for this treatment.</p> |

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup>       | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>People living in deprived areas</b>                     | <p>This policy should have a positive impact on this group but travel times may affect this.</p> <p>Deprivation is not a known a risk factor for essential tremor but may delay diagnosis.</p> <p>It is acknowledged people from this group may find travelling to a specialist centre to receive this treatment a barrier.</p> <p>This intervention may be of particular benefit as it is less invasive and can be performed as a day case.</p> <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria within this group would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for this group of patients.</p> <p>Commissioned providers should work with the patient and other relevant agencies (e.g. GP, Local Authority, charities) to ensure adequate referral access and attendance support for people living in deprived areas.</p> <p>Providing centres need to ensure eligible patients and carers are aware of the NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme/">Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</a>.</p> |
| <b>People living in remote, rural and island locations</b> | <p>This policy should have a positive impact on this group but travel times may affect this.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup>                 | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                                                                 | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                      | <p>It is acknowledged that this will be a treatment delivered in specialist centres.</p> <p>This may limit access to people living in remote, rural and island locations, though it is a one-off procedure and repeated visits are not necessary.</p> | <p>geographical access to SRS for this group of patients.</p> <p>Commissioned providers should work with the patient and other relevant agencies (e.g. GP, Local Authority, charities) to ensure adequate referral access and attendance support for people living in remote, rural and island locations.</p> <p>Providing centres need to ensure eligible patients and carers are aware of the NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme/">Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS)</a> - NHS (<a href="https://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a>).</p> |
| <b>Refugees, asylum seekers or those experiencing modern slavery</b> | <p>Being a refugee, asylum seeker or experiencing modern slavery are not known to be risk factors for essential tremor.</p> <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria within this group would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p>    | <p>Commissioned providers should work with the patient and other relevant agencies (e.g., GP, Local Authority, charities) to ensure adequate referral, access and attendance support for refugees, asylum seeker or experiencing modern slavery.</p> <p>Providing centres need to ensure eligible patients and carers are aware of the NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme/">Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS)</a> - NHS (<a href="https://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a>).</p>                                                          |
| <b>People who are digitally excluded, or digitally illiterate:</b>   | <p>Being digitally excluded or illiterate is not a known risk factor for essential tremor.</p>                                                                                                                                                        | <p>All patients who meet the inclusion criteria should be offered inclusive treatment in adherence to mandatory NHS Standards.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| Key groups who face health inequalities <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                     | Summary explanation of the main potential positive or adverse impact of your proposal                                                                                                                              | Main recommendation from your proposal to reduce any key identified adverse impact or to increase the identified positive impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>People who have little or no access to digital devices or internet connection, or who lack the skills and knowledge to use digital devices, processes and systems</p> | <p>All people who meet the clinical inclusion criteria within this group would be eligible for treatment with SRS.</p> <p>People within these groups may face challenges in accessing NHS services in general.</p> | <p>Providers should ensure a high level of cultural competence among staff, through high quality Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programmes, to help to ensure that staff are aware of the specific needs of patients or families who are part of these groups</p> <p>Other guidance relevant to providing equitable care for people within these inclusion groups includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Patient experience in adult NHS services: improving the experience of care for people using adult NHS services (NG138)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Overview   Integrated health and social care for people experiencing homelessness   Guidance   NICE</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Accessible Information Standard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Digital inclusion for health and social care - NHS England Digital</a></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Other groups experiencing health inequalities (please describe)</b></p>                                                                                            | <p>Not Applicable</p>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Not Applicable</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



**Are there risks of unequal outcomes for different patients from these proposals?**

The policy outlines how Stereotactic Radiosurgery is to be provided to the eligible population on the basis of their clinical need, regardless of whether or not they have one or more protected characteristics. There is no reason to expect that there would be unwarranted differences in access, quality of care or outcomes of care between different patient groups, as a result of the implementation of this policy.

**Are there any ways that the proposal could be improved to reduce these potential unequal outcomes, how have these fed into the proposals, and what other steps could be taken?**

Based on the response to the question above, and the recommendations for mitigation made in the above table, there is no further adjustment to the policy that would further enable the needs of particular groups to be met.

**Are there any ways in which accessibility can be improved to help reduce inequalities?**

In implementing the policy, centres can support equitable access through co-ordinated approaches via the MDTs, ensuring that certain policies, procedures or programmes are in place. For example, high quality Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programmes, data collection systems to allow for equity audit, completing and implementing the findings of a holistic needs assessment, and supporting patients to access financial reimbursement schemes.

## 5. Engagement and consultation

a. Have any key engagement or consultative activities been undertaken that considered how to address equalities issues or reduce health inequalities? Please place an x in the appropriate box below.

|       |    |
|-------|----|
| Yes X | No |
|-------|----|

b. If yes, please briefly list up the top 3 most important engagement or consultation activities undertaken, the main findings and when the engagement and consultative activities were undertaken.

| Name of engagement and consultative activities undertaken |                      | Summary note of the engagement or consultative activity undertaken and what was learned from it/how that has informed the final proposals | Month/Year        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1                                                         | Stakeholder testing  | Completed with involvement of a wide range of stakeholders.                                                                               | March /April 2025 |
| 2                                                         | Policy Working Group | The involved input from a range of clinical staff who have experience treating adults with medication-refractor essential tremor.         | 2024/25           |
| 3                                                         |                      |                                                                                                                                           |                   |

## 6. What key sources of evidence have informed your impact assessment and are there key gaps in the evidence?

| Evidence Type      | Key sources of available evidence                                                       | Key gaps in evidence, and any steps that may reasonably be taken to address these gaps                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Published evidence | An external review of available clinical evidence was undertaken to inform this policy. | No evidence was found in pertaining to impact on length of hospital stay or intra-operative pain reported by patients. |

| Evidence Type                                                                                                                | Key sources of available evidence | Key gaps in evidence, and any steps that may reasonably be taken to address these gaps |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Consultation and involvement findings</b>                                                                                 | X                                 |                                                                                        |
| <b>Research</b>                                                                                                              | X                                 |                                                                                        |
| <b>Participant or expert knowledge</b><br>For example, expertise within the team or expertise drawn on external to your team | X                                 |                                                                                        |

**7. Is your assessment that your proposal will support compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty?** Please add an x to the relevant box below and include any explanation of your assessment.

|                                   | The proposal will support? | The proposal may support? | Uncertain if the proposal will support? | The proposal will not support? |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tackling discrimination           |                            |                           | X                                       |                                |
| Advancing equality of opportunity | X                          |                           |                                         |                                |
| Fostering good relations          |                            |                           | X                                       |                                |
| <b>Explanation:</b>               |                            |                           |                                         |                                |

**8. Is your assessment that your proposal will support reducing health inequalities?** Please add an x to the relevant box below and include any explanation of your assessment.

|                                                            | The proposal will support? | The proposal may support? | Uncertain if the proposal will support? | The proposal will not support? |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reducing inequalities people face in access to health care | X                          |                           |                                         |                                |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Reducing inequalities in the effectiveness of services and the health outcomes achieved for patients                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | X |  |  |  |
| Reducing inequalities in the safety of the services and health outcomes achieved for patients                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | X |  |  |  |
| Reducing inequalities in the quality of the experience undergone by patients and the health outcomes achieved for patients.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | X |  |  |  |
| <b>Explanation:</b><br><br>This policy offers a new treatment option for patients unsuitable for TcMRgFUS. NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for this group of patients. The 4 all tier SRS centres will be assessed as part of a Quality Assurance Programme prior to treating cases. |   |  |  |  |

**9. Outstanding key issues/questions that may require further consultation, research or additional evidence.** Please list your top 3 in order of priority or state N/A

| Key issue or question to be answered |            | Type of consultation, research or other evidence that would address the issue and/or answer the question |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                    | None Noted | Not Applicable                                                                                           |
| 2                                    |            |                                                                                                          |
| 3                                    |            |                                                                                                          |

**10. Summary assessment of this EHIA findings**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Essential tremor can occur at all ages although it is significantly more common as people get older. There is no known difference in prevalence of essential tremor in people from different ethnicities and there is no link with deprivation. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

This intervention may be of particular benefit for many members of protected characteristic groups and other groups who face health inequalities as it is less invasive and can be performed as a day case. However, it is acknowledged people from these groups may also find travelling to a specialist centre to receive this treatment a barrier.

NHS England has recently increased the number of all-tiers SRS services from 2 to 4 improving geographical access to SRS for patients.

**11. Contact details re this EHIA**

|                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lead Officer name and email:        |                           |
| Team/Unit name:                     | Cancer Programme of Care  |
| Division name:                      | System Development Group  |
| Directorate name:                   | Specialised Commissioning |
| Date EHIA agreed:                   |                           |
| Date EHIA published if appropriate: |                           |