

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**NICE guidelines**

**Equality and health inequalities assessment (EHIA)  
template**

**Child maltreatment: when to suspect maltreatment in under 18s  
(CG89)**

The considerations and potential impact on equality and health inequalities have been considered throughout the guidance development, maintenance and update process according to the principles of the NICE equality policy and those outlined in [developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#).

This EHIA relates to bruising in children who are not independently mobile.

# Appendix A: equality and health inequalities assessment (EHIA)

## 2023 exceptional surveillance of child maltreatment (CG89)

### STAGE 1. Surveillance review

Date of surveillance review: January 2024

Focus of surveillance review: bruising in children who are not independently mobile.

1.1 On reviewing the existing EIA or EHIA and issues log for the guideline(s), describe below any equality and health inequalities issues relevant to the current surveillance review

There was a lack of an EIA in the 2009 guideline.

The [2018 surveillance review](#) identified:

- A view that the prevalence of child poverty is increasing which may affect parenting capacity
- Looked after children remain vulnerable but social care teams are reluctant to accept safeguarding referrals for this group

1.2 Did you identify any equality and health inequalities issues through initial intelligence gathering (for example, national policy documents, topic expert/patient group feedback, evidence searches, implementation data)?

We sought the advice of topics experts during this review and specifically asked if they were aware of any issues related to inequalities for specific subgroups of the population? One topic expert noted that certain marginalised groups, particularly those living in poverty, are over-represented in child maltreatment reports, and that the relationship between poverty and child maltreatment is highly complex and might not be devoid of bias. Another topic expert noted that there will be huge inequalities in terms of picking up physical assault of babies.

1.3 If you have consulted stakeholders or topic experts, what questions did you ask about equality and health inequalities issues?

We did not consult for this topic.

1.4 What equality and health inequalities issues have been identified during this surveillance review and what was the impact on the current review and outcome decision? [If an update is proposed, include information in the update and outcomes plan]

There was a view that there is a complex relationship between child poverty and abuse, which may not be devoid of bias. This issue has been noted for consideration during any future update but it is unlikely to be an area where NICE can develop specific recommendations.

Completed by surveillance reviewer: CM, technical analyst

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Approved by NICE surveillance associate director: KN, associate director

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