

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

3.0 Guideline development: before consultation (to be completed by the Developer before consultation on the draft guideline)

3.1 Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

Not applicable

3.2 Have any **other** potential equality issues (in addition to those identified during the scoping process) been identified, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

The committee identified the following potential equality issues, including:

Socio-economic factors need to be considered with some families (in particular those in the lower socio-economic groups) having chaotic lifestyles and are therefore less structured in their management of their asthma.

Race was noted with reported ethnic variation in asthma frequency. South Asian children had a lower frequency of symptoms suggestive of asthma compared with black and white children. However, relative to white people, the risk of admission for asthma in children and adults was higher for south Asians.

Although not a protected characteristic, the committee also highlighted geographical variation, especially in relation to urban and rural locations. Rural areas often have smaller primary care practice with asthma management lead by a practice nurse

rather than a specialist asthma nurse. Rural locations often have reduced access to tertiary healthcare for more specialist treatment. However conversely children in rural areas also benefit from lower levels of air pollution which has been shown to worsen asthma symptoms.

3.3 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the guideline for consultation, and, if so, where?

Yes – in the "other factors the committee took into account" section of the committee's discussion of the evidence.

3.4 Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

The committee did not identify anything in the preliminary recommendations to make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups.

3.5 Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No

3.6 Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to services identified in box 3.4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to advance equality?

N/A

Completed by Developer: Sue Spiers

Date: 30th September 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

Date: 29th October 2019