NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE quality standards

Equality impact assessment

End of life care for adults (QS update)

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

### 1. TOPIC ENGAGEMENT STAGE

### 1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during this stage of the development process?

The guideline development committee highlighted the following groups that need specific consideration:

* People who do not speak English
* People with dementia
* People with cognitive impairment
* People with learning disabilities
* People who are homeless

The guideline development committee also highlighted that people from different ethnic backgrounds may perceive end of life in different ways which may be associated with their religion, culture or beliefs.

Any specific needs of these groups will be highlighted during development of the quality standard.

### 1.2 Have any population groups, treatments or settings been excluded from coverage by the quality standard at this stage in the process. Are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

The quality standard will not include children as the population has specific needs for end of life care that are different to the needs of adults.

The quality standard will also not include adults in the last days of life. This area is covered by a separate NICE quality standard[, Care of dying adults in the last days of life](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs144) (QS144).

Completed by lead technical analyst: Anna Wasielewska

Date: 18/02/2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

Date: 27/02/2020

### 2. PRE-CONSULTATION STAGE

### 2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the quality standard (including those identified during the topic engagement process)? How have they been addressed?

Statement 2 notes that advance care planning should be discussed in a way that is understandable to the person.

It is noted under statement 3 that some carers may be younger or older or have a disability or significant health condition which needs to be taken into account when support is being considered and provided.

Statements 2, 3 and 5 note that people should be provided with information, that they can easily understand themselves, or with support, so they can communicate effectively with health and social care practitioners. Information should be in a format that suits their needs and preferences. It should be accessible to people who do not speak or read English, and it should be culturally and age appropriate. People should have access to an interpreter or advocate if needed.

For people with additional needs related to a disability, impairment or sensory loss, information should be provided as set out in NHS England's Accessible Information Standard.

### 2.2 Have any changes to the scope of the quality standard been made as a result of topic engagement to highlight potential equality issues?

No changes have been made to the scope of the quality standard at this stage.

### 2.3 Do the draft quality statements 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?

No.

### 2.4 Is there potential for the draft quality statements to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

### 2.5 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 questions 2.1, 2.2 or 2.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE’s obligation to advance equality?

No.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Eileen Taylor

Date: 22/09/2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Mark Minchin

Date: 03/11/2020

### 3. POST CONSULTATION STAGE

### 3.1 Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation stage, and, if so, how has the committee addressed them?

Stakeholders highlighted the importance of cultural and religious beliefs when discussing end of life care. The equality and diversity sections of quality statements 2 and 3 highlight the importance of approaching these discussions sensitively and taking account of the person’s beliefs.

Stakeholders highlighted the importance of taking into account a person’s level of health literacy and this has been included in the equality and diversity sections of quality statements 2, 3 and 5.

The QSAC noted that the needs of young carers and carers of adults approaching the end of their life who have a learning disability need to be considered and this is included in the equality and diversity section of quality statement 3.

### 3.2 If the quality statements have changed after the consultation stage, are there any that 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?

No, the minor changes to the quality statements are not expected to make it more difficult for any groups to access services.

### 3.3 If the quality statements have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No, the minor changes to the quality statements are not expected to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities.

### 3.4 If the quality statements have changed after consultation, 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 questions 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE’s obligations to advance equality?

N/A.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Eileen Taylor

Date: 22/6/2021

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Mark Minchin

Date: 26/07/2021

### 4. After NICE Guidance Executive amendments

### 4.1 Outline amendments agreed by Guidance Executive below, if applicable:

No amendments made at this stage.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Eileen Taylor

Date: 24/08/21

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Mark Minchin

Date: 24/08/21

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