

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## NICE guidelines

### Equality impact assessment

#### Haemochromatosis

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

#### **1.0 Checking for updates and scope: before scope consultation (to be completed by the Developer and submitted with the draft scope for consultation)**

1.1 Is the proposed primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration? Y/N

If so, what is it and what action might be taken by NICE or the developer to meet this need? (For example, adjustments to committee processes, additional forms of consultation.)

No

1.2 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the check for an update or during development of the draft scope, and, if so, what are they?

(Please specify if the issue has been highlighted by a stakeholder)

Gender

Signs and symptoms of genetic hemochromatosis tend to appear later and are less severe in women than men. Iron overload is uncommon in pre-menopausal women because of menstruation and pregnancy, so onset of symptoms is usually around or after menopause in women. Men with genetic haemochromatosis are more likely to develop complications and often at an

earlier age compared to women.

- Ethnicity

There is evidence to suggest that prevalence of genetic hemochromatosis varies across ethnic groups. HFE C282Y homozygosity is more common in people of white Northern European background, such as those with Irish and other Celtic background, but rare in other ethnic groups.

Age

No issue identified

- Disability

Access to services may be more difficult for people with a disability.

People with mental health comorbidities may make adherence to interventions more difficult. Needle phobia is a barrier to treatment with venesection (phlebotomy) or erythrocytapheresis.

- Gender reassignment

No issue identified

- Pregnancy and maternity

Venesection is generally suspended in women during pregnancy. Venesection may not commence until several months after delivery.

- Religion or belief

No issue identified

- Sexual orientation

No issue identified

- Socio-economic factors

No issue identified

- Other definable characteristics (these are examples):

- refugees

- asylum seekers
- migrant workers
- looked-after children
- people who are homeless
- prisoners and young offenders
- any others identified

Traveller communities may have more difficulty accessing and engaging with services .

### 1.3 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

- 1) would we be able to address the issues identified within this guideline (for example, does the guideline propose to cover access to services, specific population groups etc)?
- 2) does the guideline need to consider any of these issues as subgroups to the review questions?
- 3) do we propose to exclude any groups in the population and are these exclusions justified/do they relate to any of the equalities issues identified?]

The equality issues identified above (gender, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy) will be addressed by the committee as part of the review of evidence and development of recommendations. All will be included within the population covered by the reviews. Where appropriate they will be considered as subgroups or strata when the protocols for specific review questions are set.

Completed by Developer: Gill Ritchie

Date: 22/12/22

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

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