

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Autism spectrum disorder in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis

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 draft guideline consultation)

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

Not applicable. This update did not include a scoping process.

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?

Sex, language and cultural background were discussed by the committee as part of the equality impact assessment. The committee agreed that ASD and ADHD are both often underdiagnosed in females. The addition of ADHD to the list is not expected to either improve or worsen the potential for under-diagnosis of ASD in females. The committee also agreed that language and familiarity with the health system might have an effect on the time of ASD diagnosis and that there might be an ASD diagnosis stigma from some cultural backgrounds but the addition of ADHD to the recommendation was not expected to modify these effects.

3.3 Were the Committee's considerations of equality issues described in the consultation document, 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?

No.

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 questions 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to advance equality?

No equality issues have been identified that would be affected by the recommendation changes made.

Completed by Developer: Sue Spiers

Date: 08.09.2017

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead:

Date: