

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE
CLINICAL GUIDELINE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT -
RECOMMENDATIONS

Clinical guideline: Varicose veins in the leg. The diagnosis and management of varicose veins
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As outlined in The guidelines manual (2012), NICE has a duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. The purpose of this form is to document the consideration of equality issues in each stage of the guideline production process. This equality impact assessment is designed to support compliance with NICE's obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

Table 1 below lists the protected characteristics and other equality factors NICE needs to consider, i.e. not just population groups sharing the 'protected characteristics' defined in the Equality Act but also those affected by health inequalities associated with socioeconomic factors or other forms of disadvantage. The table does not attempt to provide further interpretation of the protected characteristics.

This form should be drafted before first submission of the guideline, revised before the second submission (after consultation) and finalised before the third submission (after the quality assurance teleconference) by the guideline developer. It will be signed off by NICE at the same time as the guideline, and published on the NICE website with the final guideline. The form is used to:

- record any equality issues raised in connection with the guideline by anybody involved **since scoping**, including NICE, the National Collaborating Centre, GDG members, any peer reviewers and stakeholders
- demonstrate that all equality issues, both old and new, have been given due consideration, by explaining what impact they have had on recommendations, or if there is no impact, why this is.
- highlight areas where the guideline should advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations
- ensure that the guideline will not discriminate against any of the equality groups

1. Have the equality areas identified during scoping as needing attention been addressed in the guideline?

Please confirm whether:

- the evidence reviews addressed the areas that had been identified in the scope as needing specific attention with regard to equality issues (this also applies to consensus work within or outside the GDG)
- the GDG has considered these areas in their discussions.

Note: some issues of language may correlate with ethnicity; and some communication issues may correlate with disability

What issue was identified and what was done to address it?	Was there an impact on the recommendations? If so, what?
<p>Pregnant women.</p> <p>Pregnant women were identified as special group for consideration. In all of the reviews conducted evidence specific to pregnant women was searched for. Chapter 11 of the guideline collates and describes all the evidence identified on pregnant women.</p> <p>An expert advisor from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists attended the GDG where the evidence was discussed and has commented on the chapter and recommendations that refer to pregnant women.</p>	<p>Three recommendations were made that were specific to pregnant women to clarify the treatment of their varicose veins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give pregnant women presenting with varicose veins information on the effect of pregnancy on varicose veins. • Do not carry out interventional treatment for varicose veins during pregnancy other than in exceptional circumstances. • Consider compression hosiery for symptom relief of leg swelling associated with varicose veins for women during pregnancy. <p>Two research recommendations were made that were specific to pregnant women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long after giving birth should women wait before having interventional treatment for varicose veins? • Should women have their varicose veins treated 'between' pregnancies or advised to wait until they do not plan to have any more children?

Insert more rows as necessary.

The GDG noted the importance of providing easy to understand and easy to read information to people with varicose veins. The recommendation has been developed to be specific to the information needs of people with varicose veins. The GDG noted in the evidence to recommendations section 5.5 that the NICE patient experience guideline provides further, more generic, recommendations to improve the experiences of those using the health service and should be consulted as required.

5. Do the recommendations foster good relations?

State if the recommendations are formulated so as to foster good relations, for example by improving understanding or tackling prejudice.

Recommendations 1 and 2 are directed at providing information with people with varicose veins and improving their understanding.