

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

CLINICAL GUIDELINE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT –
SCOPING

Clinical guideline: Obesity: guidance on the prevention; identification; assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children

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 at the scoping stage of the guideline development 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 lists the equality characteristics and other equality factors NICE needs to consider – not just population subgroups sharing the 'protected characteristics' defined in the Equality Act, but also groups affected by health inequalities associated with socioeconomic factors or other forms of disadvantage. Table 1 does not attempt to provide further interpretation of the protected characteristics.

This form should be completed by the guideline developer before scope sign-off, and approved by the NICE lead for the guideline at the same time as the scope. The form will be published on the NICE website with the final scope.

The form is used to:

- record any equality issues raised in connection with the guideline during scoping by anybody involved, including NICE, the National Collaborating Centre, the GDG Chair and stakeholders
- demonstrate that each of these issues has been considered and explain how it will be taken into account during guideline development if appropriate
- highlight areas where the guideline may advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations
- ensure that the guideline will not discriminate against any of the equality groups.

Table 1 NICE equality groups

Protected characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Gender reassignment • Pregnancy and maternity • Race • Religion or belief • Sex • Sexual orientation • Marriage and civil partnership (protected only in respect of the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination)
Additional characteristics to be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic status <p>Depending on policy or other context, this may cover factors such as social exclusion and deprivation associated with geographical areas, or inequalities or variations associated with other geographical distinctions (for example, the North–South divide; urban versus rural).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other <p>Other groups in the population experience poor health because of circumstances often affected by, but going beyond, sharing a protected characteristic or socioeconomic status. Whether such groups can be identified depends on the guidance topic and the evidence. The following are examples of groups that may be covered in NICE guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refugees and asylum seekers • migrant workers • looked-after children • homeless people.

1. Have equality issues been identified during scoping?

- Record any issues that have been identified and plans to tackle them during guideline development. For example
 - if the effect of an intervention may vary by ethnic group, what plans are there to investigate this?
 - if a test is likely to be used to define eligibility for an intervention, how will the GDG consider whether all groups can complete the test?

Many equalities related issues contribute to obesity. These include gender, age, ethnicity and socio-economic status. The guideline will endeavour to identify evidence in these sub groups that might inform targeted recommendations.

There are particular differences in the prevalence of obesity by ethnicity. Ethnic differences exist in the prevalence of obesity and the risk of ill health resulting from obesity. For example, compared to the general population, the prevalence of obesity is lower among men from Bangladeshi and Chinese communities in particular whereas, among women, it is higher for those from Black African, Black Caribbean and Pakistani communities as reported in the National Obesity Observatory publication in 2011.

People with learning difficulties are also more at risk of being obese. The guideline will consider the eligibility of these groups for weight-loss interventions where evidence for these groups is available and will consider issues related to access to interventions for people with learning disabilities.

2. If there are exclusions listed in the scope (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified?

- Are the reasons legitimate? (that is, they do not discriminate against a particular group)
- Is the exclusion proportionate?

The guideline update excludes pregnant women, those under the age of 2 and those of a healthy weight. These exclusions are appropriate considering the focussed nature of the update in relation to bariatric surgery and the use of very low calorie diets as the interventions being assessed would not be undertaken in the excluded groups.

3. Have relevant stakeholders been consulted?

- Have all relevant stakeholders, including those with an interest in equality issues been consulted?
- Have comments highlighting potential for discrimination or advancing equality been considered?

The scope has been subject to a period of public consultation (27.11.13 – 11.12.13) in accordance with NICE guidance. Stakeholder comments related to equality issues were considered before finalising the scope.