

# Appendix A: Equality and health inequalities assessment (EHIA)

## 2023 exceptional surveillance of jaundice in newborn babies under 28 days (NICE guideline CG98)

The considerations and potential impact on equality and health inequalities have been considered throughout the guidance development, maintenance and update process according to the principles of the NICE equality policy and those outlined in [Developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#).

### STAGE 1. Surveillance review

Date of surveillance review: April 2023

Focus of surveillance review: total serum bilirubin (TSB) thresholds for starting phototherapy and exchange transfusion in term babies with neonatal hyperbilirubinaemia (the [threshold table](#) section and associated recommendations)

Exceptional review

1.1 On reviewing the existing EIA or EHIA and issues log for the guideline(s), describe below any equality and health inequalities issues relevant to the current surveillance review

No relevant equality or health inequalities issues were identified in the 2016 [equality impact assessment](#), nor from the issues log for NICE guideline CG98

1.2 Did you identify any equality and health inequalities issues through initial intelligence gathering (for example, national policy documents, topic expert/patient group feedback, evidence searches, implementation data)?

*[Please consider all four dimensions of health inequalities below and whether any potential issue(s) were identified. Please note that the dimensions often overlap, and the impact of intersectionality and cumulative disadvantage should also be considered and noted. Where no issue has been identified, ensure that this is also noted.]*

1) *Protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation)*

- 2) Socioeconomic deprivation (for example, variation by area deprivation such as Index of Multiple Deprivation, National Statistics Socio-economic Classification, employment status, income)
- 3) Geographical area variation (for example, geographical differences in epidemiology or service provision- urban/rural, coastal, north/south)
- 4) Inclusion health and vulnerable groups (for example, vulnerable migrants, people experiencing homelessness, people in contact with the criminal justice system, sex workers, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, young people leaving care and victims of trafficking)]

No

1.3 If you have consulted stakeholders or topic experts, what questions did you ask about equality and health inequalities issues?

*[Please state any additional or specific questions that were asked beyond the standard equalities question]*

Not applicable

1.4 What equality and health inequalities issues have been identified during this surveillance review and what was the impact on the current review and outcome decision? [If an update is proposed, include information in the update and outcomes plan]

*[Please provide details of the key issues identified and any actions or decisions taken.]*

A check of the studies provided by external communications that triggered the exceptional review identified a potential health inequalities issue in relation to race:

A study reporting on a retrospective analysis of first total serum bilirubin (TSB) measurements in newborns, compiled hour-specific TSB values into a nomogram and assessed whether there were any differences between TSB values in newborns of different ethnicity ([Bahr et al. 2021](#)). Analysis indicated that TSB values were significantly lower in newborns of Black ethnicity and higher in newborns of Asian ethnicity (no further details on ethnic group provided within the full paper). However the authors reported that the sample used to create the nomogram did not include proportions of different ethnicities representative of the population distribution (only 0.7% of the sample was black and 1.5% Asian, although the authors note that the sample sizes were sufficient to enable analysis: 2,868 and 5,866 respectively). The authors concluded, that while there were statistically significant differences in hour-specific bilirubin percentiles, they did not think

the differences were large enough to indicate a need for nomograms based on ethnic group. Therefore, while those undertaking the update of this topic area should be aware of potential differences in TSB values between newborns from different ethnic groups, these differences do not appear to be of clinical significance.

Completed by surveillance reviewer: CH, senior technical analyst

Date: 10 March 2023

Approved by NICE surveillance associate director: KN, associate director

Date: 4 April 2023