

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Equality impact assessment: Topic scoping

Topical antimicrobial dressings for infected leg ulcers in people aged 16 and over: Late-stage assessment

The impact on equality has been assessed during this evaluation according to the principles of the [NICE Equality scheme](#).

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the topic briefing note or during selection, and, if so, what are they?

- Leg ulcers are more common in people who are seriously ill, have a neurological condition, impaired mobility, impaired nutrition or obesity.
- The prevalence of venous leg ulcers increases with age.
- People with diabetes have an increased risk of infection. People with certain family origins (South Asian, Chinese, black African and African-Caribbean family origins) have an increased risk of diabetes.
- People with conditions such as anaemia, cardiac disease, respiratory disease, peripheral arterial disease, renal impairment or rheumatoid arthritis have an increased risk of wound infection due to possible poor tissue perfusion.
- Leg ulcers are a chronic complication for people living with haemoglobinopathies such as sickle cell disease and thalassaemia.
- Leg ulcers and some signs of infections may be less visible on darker skin tones.
- Some dressings may not be appropriate for people having radiotherapy.
- Wounds in people who smoke, people who are dependent on alcohol, people who use drugs and people with nutritional deficiencies may be less likely to heal.
- Wounds in people within unsanitary environments may be more likely to become infected.
- It may be more difficult for people with no fixed address to access care for frequent dressing changes.
- People with a mental health condition and people with a learning disability, if it impaired compliance with their treatment plan, may be more likely to develop a wound infection.
- There are a range of antimicrobial agents with individual instructions for use. There will be groups, such as women who are pregnant or

breastfeeding or people with thyroid dysfunction for whom some agents will be contraindicated.

- Some antimicrobial agents do not have an active agent and are suitable for pregnant or breastfeeding women. Some antimicrobial agents within the scope do not contain animal products and can be used by people in faith groups.
- Leg ulcers occur in people from all socioeconomic groups, but ulcers take longer to heal and recurrence rates are higher in people from lower socioeconomic groups.

Age, disability, gender, religion, race and pregnancy are all protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010).

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the committee?

The committee should consider all the equality issues when making recommendations and note that not all dressings will be suitable for everyone.

3. Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

No.

4. Have any additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process, and, if so, have changes to the stakeholder list been made?

No additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues were identified during the scoping process.

Approved by Associate Director: Anastasia Chalkidou

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