

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## HealthTech programme

### Equality impact assessment: scoping

#### One-piece closed bags for adults with a colostomy: 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?

People having colorectal surgery may have an underlying condition such as cancer or inflammatory bowel disease. People who have been diagnosed with cancer or chronic diseases may be considered disabled under the Equality Act (2010).

Equality considerations identified during scoping related to 1-piece closed bags include:

- Older people or people with underlying skin conditions may be more likely to have fragile skin that is prone to tearing. They may experience a higher rate of peristomal skin complications due to the continued removal and application of the colostomy bag baseplate. It is also reported that women experience a higher rate of peristomal skin complications compared with men ([D'Ambrosio, 2023](#)).
- Some people may need additional support or may struggle to use certain bags because of a visual or cognitive impairment, reduced manual dexterity or a learning disability. Autistic people may also find certain bags unsuitable or may need additional support. People in a wheelchair, people who are sat for long periods of time or people with excessive sweating, such as people in menopause, may struggle with the durability and security of certain bags.
- Colostomy bags are mostly offered in beige, grey or clear. A small number of bags are offered in black. People may prefer choosing a bag that most closely matches their skin tone if this is available.

Age, disability, gender and race 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 bags will be suitable for everyone.

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

Potential equality issues or considerations have been highlighted in section 3.1 of the scope. Draft scope consultation comments and discussions at the scoping workshop highlighted that people with visual or cognitive impairment as well as people with a learning disability may struggle to use certain bags. It was also highlighted that people in a wheelchair, people who are sat for long periods of times or people with excessive sweating, such as people in menopause may struggle with the durability and security of certain bags. These considerations have been included in the final scope.

**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

**Date:** 19/4/2024