

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Rehabilitation for chronic neurological disorders including acquired brain injury

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

2.0 Checking for updates and scope: after consultation (to be completed by the Developer and submitted with the revised scope)

2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during consultation, and, if so, what are they?

1. A small number of stakeholders raised the issue of health inequalities in relation to race and ethnicity. Stakeholders said that there was some evidence that certain ethnic groups are less likely to gain access to specialist rehabilitation services
2. The issue of inequalities in relation to access to rehabilitation, based on type of neurological condition was also raised. It was felt that certain conditions were well provided for (e.g. stroke) whereas services were often scarce for other neurological conditions and this created health inequalities based on disability or type of impairment.
3. The issue of therapies being offered remotely, via video or tele link was also seen as an area for consideration in that it could disadvantage certain groups who struggled with access to IT equipment.
4. Older people were raised as a group who often experienced discrimination with regards accessing services, due to age related discrimination and assumptions and this can be particularly true of older people experiencing chronic vestibular diagnosis.
5. One stakeholder raised a number of possible relevant sub groups for people

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with traumatic brain injury. There are specific subgroups with particularly high rates of TBI that should be considered as needing specific attention. These include: homeless people, prisoners, domestic violence victims, retired military personal, retired sportsmen and women.

2.2 Have any changes to the scope been made as a result of consultation to highlight potential equality issues?

Some changes have been added to the scope in the section about Equality considerations to reflect health inequalities in relation to race and ethnicity, particularly in accessing specialist services.

With regard to the discrimination issue based on type of neurological condition the scope is now clearer that evidence will be considered separately in a number of review areas for different groups of conditions so that specific and appropriate recommendations can be made. These groups are likely to be:

- Acquired brain injury
- Acquired spinal cord injury
- Acquired peripheral nerve disorders
- Progressive neurological diseases
- Functional neurological disorders.

All other suggestions by stakeholders will be considered within the protocols for individual evidence reviews.

2.3 Have any of the changes made led to a change in the primary focus of the guideline which would require consideration of a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration?

If so, what is it and what action might be taken by NICE or the developer to meet this need? (For example, adjustments to committee processes, additional forms of consultation)

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No

Updated by Developer: Lisa Boardman (Guideline Lead)

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Simon Ellis

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