

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**NICE guidelines**

**Equality impact assessment**

**Maternal and child nutrition: nutrition and  
weight management in pregnant women, and  
nutrition in children up to 5 years**

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

**1.0 Checking for updates and scope: before scope consultation (to be completed by the Developer and submitted with the draft scope for consultation)**

1.1 Is the proposed primary focus of the guideline a population with 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.)

We will consider how to engage with pregnant women who are harder to reach – for example teenage mothers or those who are not engaged in the NHS system due to cultural background, asylum seekers, or the inability to speak English, for example.

1.2 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the check for an update or during development of the draft scope, and, if so, what are they?

1. Lower socio-economic groups, those living in deprived areas, those experiencing food insecurity and economically vulnerable groups, such as young teenage mothers, refugees and asylum seekers.

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2. Age related assumptions, in particular about young teenage mothers and older mothers
3. Women and parents with disabilities, including learning disabilities and other physical and mental health conditions
4. Women going through assisted conception
5. LGBTQ+ women and parents
6. Fathers and others with parental responsibility and partners of mothers
7. Children with developmental problems
8. Geographical variation e.g. places without adequate provision of primary care (outside cities).
9. Different outcomes for some black and minority ethnic groups (e.g. BMI measures)
10. Take account of religious and cultural considerations within the recommendations.

1.3 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

1. We will consider the evidence about different outcome measures for some black and minority ethnic groups (e.g. BMI measures)
2. We will look for evidence about interventions that particularly support women, parents, fathers, children and families from lower socio-economic groups, those experiencing food insecurity and economically vulnerable groups.
3. We will make sure the recommendations tackle age related service assumptions, especially around young teenage mothers and older mothers.
4. The recommendations should reflect the diverse circumstances in which women experience pregnancy and weight management issues including religious and cultural considerations, existing physical and mental health conditions, LGBTQ+ women and parents, experience of assisted conception, geographical location and access to primary services.
5. The role of fathers and partners should be considered in the reviews about early years child nutrition and the continuation of breast feeding.

Completed by Developer  Lisa Boardman  (Guideline Lead) \_\_\_\_\_

Date  28th September 2021  \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead  Nichole Taske , Guideline Lead

Date  29th September 2021  \_\_\_\_\_

## Scoping – Equality Impact Assessment v 1.0

### 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 number of stakeholders raised the issue of vitamin supplementation and dietary advice for people with particular long term conditions. We were also asked to review on what basis we were excluding women with diabetes, epilepsy and HIV. The scoping group discussed these issues and noted that the guideline could not cover specific recommendations for women and children who have been advised to follow a particular diet for control of a medical condition e.g. diabetes. However all these groups will now be included in evidence reviews around advice, information and support and there will be some scope to make specific recommendations for some groups where evidence is available and where the committee feels this is important, but again these will not focus on particular medical interventions e.g. folic acid or vitamin dosage. Where available the guideline will link to specific recommendations in NICE or government advice relevant for these groups.
2. Several stakeholders referenced evidence showing a correlation between socio-economic circumstances and malnutrition, including underweight and overweight. We have already included this in the equality considerations.
3. Several stakeholders wanted us to consider age, ethnicity and socioeconomic status particularly in relation to diet in pregnancy and breastfeeding advice. We had already noted these groups. We will consider within the specific reviews.
4. The impact of employment status on employment rights for breastfeeding mothers was mentioned and this can be picked up within the protocol of the relevant review about workplace interventions to support breastfeeding – but as it is not strictly an equalities consideration and is specific only to one review it has not been added to the scope.
5. Pre-pregnancy BMI was mentioned, and in the context of obesity or problems with underweight as a long term health condition, this may be something that can be considered in the evidence reviews.

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

In relation to point 1 above, the scope section on “Areas that will not be covered by this update” was amended to include:

*“Specialist dietary interventions for women and children following a specific diet for a medical condition.”*

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In relation to point 2 and 4 above we have been clearer about the coverage of both underweight and overweight”

*“We will give specific consideration to women who are underweight, overweight or obese during pregnancy”*

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)

No

Updated by Developer \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Boardman\_(Guideline Lead)\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_17<sup>th</sup> November 2021\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead \_\_\_\_\_ Nichole Taske \_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_24<sup>th</sup> December 2021\_\_\_\_\_

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