NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE quality standards

Equality impact assessment

Indoor air quality at home

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

### 1. TOPIC ENGAGEMENT STAGE

### 1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during this stage of the development process?

The quality standard will cover the whole population, but some sub-groups may be at

increased risk of exposure to high levels of indoor air pollution or adverse

effects from indoor air pollutants. These include:

* people living in deprived areas, for example as measured by the index of multiple deprivation
* older people as they may spend longer than average at home
* people with disabilities
* pregnant women as they may have a compromised immune system
* children and young people as they may spend longer than average at home
* people with conditions associated with or exacerbated by indoor air pollution, such as stroke, heart disease and asthma.

### 1.2 Have any population groups, treatments or settings been excluded from coverage by the quality standard at this stage in the process. Are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

The quality standard for indoor air quality at home will cover the whole population but settings will exclude:

* Non-residential settings (as the majority of time people spend indoors is at home)
* Living accommodation in prisons and secure environments (adequately covered by existing regulations)

Quality standards have already been published on [air pollution: outdoor air quality and health](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs181), [physical health of people in prisons](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs156), [healthy workplaces](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs147).

Completed by lead technical analyst: Paul Daly

Date: 08/01/2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Mark Minchin

Date: 09/01/2020

### 2. PRE-CONSULTATION STAGE

### 2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the quality standard (including those identified during the topic engagement process)? How have they been addressed?

QSAC recognised that some housing types are more affected by poor indoor air quality than others, such as those in the social and privately rented sector. There is a link between socioeconomic status and the type of housing. Associated with this is an issue about whether some groups of people are able to make changes to their homes. They also noted that some groups will be more vulnerable to the effects of, or are more likely to be exposed to, pollutants. Vulnerability and exposure are affected by age, sex, pregnancy, pre-existing health conditions and socioeconomic status. People living in high rise buildings, homes of multiple occupation and care homes may need special considerations. They also suggested that people with serious mental illness may benefit from the quality standard.

Specific considerations have been included in statements to help identify groups of people more vulnerable to the effects of poor indoor air quality and identify housing conditions that increase the risk of exposure to pollutants. Statements also include actions for professionals seeing people who may be affected by indoor air quality to help them to take action, for example by helping them request a housing assessment.

### 2.2 Have any changes to the scope of the quality standard been made as a result of topic engagement to highlight potential equality issues?

No changes have been made to the scope of the quality standard at this stage.

### 2.3 Do the draft quality statements make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No.

### 2.4 Is there potential for the draft quality statements to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

### 2.5 Are there any recommendations or explanations that the committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to services identified in questions 2.1, 2.2 or 2.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE’s obligation to advance equality?

No.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Paul Daly

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