

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE**

**NICE guidelines**

**Equality impact assessment**

**Intrapartum care for women with existing medical conditions or obstetric complications and their babies**

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

**4.0 Final guideline (to be completed by the Developer before GE consideration of final guideline)**

4.1 Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

No additional potential equality issues were raised during the consultation. However, some stakeholders sought changes to recommendations to ensure women-centred language was used throughout. Particular issues with regard to women-centred language focused on: involving the woman in decision making and taking account of the woman's preferences as a priority; using approaches to information giving in line with the NICE guideline on patient experience in NHS services; and seeking consent to share information with the women's birth companion(s). Specific suggestions to ensure use of women-centred language in the recommendations included changing 'advice' to 'information' and 'advise' to 'discuss', and referring to the woman's 'care' rather than 'management'. Both committees considered these over-arching themes and agreed changes to the recommendations to provide greater use of women-centred language across the guideline.

Additionally, a stakeholder comment requested a change to the recommendation about exploring possible vulnerability or safeguarding concerns in women who have had no antenatal care. The specific suggestion from the stakeholder was to include undocumented migrants in the list of possibilities to be explored, and this change was made.

## EIA 4

4.2 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that 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.

4.3 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

4.4 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, 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 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

No – but note the response in section 3.6 above regarding ways in which the committees addressed these issues before the consultation on the draft guideline. The response remains valid following the changes made to take account of stakeholder consultation comments.

## EIA 4

4.5 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final guideline document, and, if so, where?

As noted above, each guideline review protocol included a statement with regard to steps to be undertaken to ensure that equality issues would be addressed in reviewing the evidence and drafting recommendations. Consideration of equality issues was also documented in the committee's discussion of the evidence sections. Where changes to recommendations were made following the stakeholder consultation on the draft guideline, the corresponding discussion of the evidence sections were updated accordingly.

Updated by Developer: Moira Mugglestone

Date: 3 December 2018

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

Date: 8 January 2019