

1.0.7 DOC EIA (2019)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Cannabis-based medicinal products

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 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?

During development of the draft scope the following groups were identified with potential equality issues that need to be considered:

- Age: children young people and babies may need specific consideration when considering the effectiveness, safety and potential harms, decision making and prescribing requirements for cannabis-based medicinal products.
- Disability: people with physical disability, learning disability and / or mental health problems may need specific consideration when considering the effectiveness, safety and potential harms, decision making and prescribing requirements for cannabis-based medicinal products.
- Pregnancy and maternity: pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding may need specific consideration when considering the effectiveness, safety and potential harms, decision making and prescribing requirements for cannabis-based medicinal products.
- Religion or belief: some people may due to their religion or belief be concerned about taking cannabis-based products, due to a concern regarding effects on the brain.

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1.2 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? For example, if population groups, treatments or settings are excluded from the scope, are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

Age, disability, pregnancy and maternity: specific recommendations may need to be made for children, young people and babies, people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and/or mental health problems, and pregnant and breastfeeding women

Religion and belief: specific recommendations to support people who have concerns about taking cannabis-based medicinal products due to their religion or belief may need to be made to address this.

Completed by Developer: Katrina Penman

Date: 07/11/2018

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Simon Ellis

Date: 12/11/2018

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?

One stakeholder queried if older people were included in the guideline.

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

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No changes have been made to the scope as a result of equalities issues identified during scope consultation as older people are included in the population included in the guideline. If evidence in this population is identified during the update of this guideline the evidence will be considered and a subgroup analysis may be performed.

2.3 Is the primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific disability-related communication need?

If so, do the key messages for the public need to be produced in an alternative version?

If so, which alternative version is recommended?

The alternative versions available are:

- large font or audio versions for a population with sight loss
- British Sign Language videos for a population deaf from birth
- 'Easy read' versions for people with learning disabilities or cognitive impairment.

Does an alternative version(s) of the consultation documents also need to be produced?

The primary focus of the guideline is not a population with a specific disability-related communication need, therefore there is not a need for an alternative version of the guideline.

Updated by Developer: Katrina Penman

Date: 17/12/2018

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____ Chris Carson _____

Date _____ 01/08/2019 _____

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3.0 Guideline development: before consultation (to be completed by the Developer before consultation on the draft guideline)

3.1 Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

The committee made recommendations to consider the following factors, which were identified during scoping, when prescribing cannabis-based medicinal products:

- Age, in particular children, young people and babies as this population may require longer regular follow-up due to the concern that medicinal cannabis may impact on brain development.
- Pregnancy and maternity due to the potentially harmful effects on fetal or infant development.
- Psychiatric history, psychosis and schizophrenia due to the potential psychoactive effects of some medicinal cannabis products.

Disability and religion or belief were identified during scoping. However, the committee agreed to make no specific recommendations on these factors. This is because there was no evidence to suggest differences in consent or effectiveness amongst these groups.

3.2 Have any **other** potential equality issues (in addition to those identified during the scoping process) been identified, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

The committee made a recommendation that the following should be taken into account when prescribing cannabis-based medicinal products:

- Past history of substance abuse

There is some concern regarding the potential for substance abuse of the cannabis-based medicinal product in people with a past history.

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3.3 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the guideline for consultation, and, if so, where?

Yes, in the benefits and harms section of the evidence review.

3.4 Do the preliminary recommendations 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?

The committee did not identify anything in the preliminary recommendations to make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups. The committee identified that certain groups, such as children, young people and babies may need careful consideration when prescribing cannabis-based medicinal products and may require more frequent follow-up.

3.5 Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No.

3.6 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 box 3.4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to advance equality?

N/A

Completed by Developer Susan Speirs

Date 14/06/2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____ Chris Carson _____

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Date _____ 01/08/2019 _____

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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?

[Consider each of the characteristics listed below in turn and indicate under each heading whether any **additional** potential equality issue(s) were identified by a stakeholder during consultation, what the issue is, and how you have addressed it. Where no new issue has been identified, you can delete the heading.]

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic factors
- Other definable characteristics (these are examples):
 - refugees
 - asylum seekers
 - migrant workers
 - looked-after children
 - people who are homeless
 - prisoners and young offenders
 - any others identified

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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?

Consider in turn whether any of the new or amended recommendations fall into this category for each of the characteristics. Outline under the relevant heading what the barriers are. Only keep the heading if there is a barrier. If there are none, the headings can be deleted, and it should be noted that none were identified:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic factors
- Other definable characteristics (these are examples):
 - refugees
 - asylum seekers
 - migrant workers
 - looked-after children
 - people who are homeless
 - prisoners and young offenders
 - any others identified

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?

[Consider whether there are any adverse impacts on people with disabilities, other

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than access barriers identified in 4.2, as a result of the new or amended recommendations, and outline those here]

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 question 4.2, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

[Consider this in relation to the contents of box 4.2 and outline any suggestions]

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

[Outline where in the guideline you have discussed equality issues, specifying the relevant Rationale and Impact sections, and the appropriate sections of the relevant Evidence Reviews.]

Updated by Developer _____

Date _____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date _____

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5.0 After Guidance Executive amendments – if applicable (to be completed by appropriate NICE staff member after Guidance Executive)

5.1 Outline amendments agreed by Guidance Executive below, if applicable:

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Approved by Developer _____

Date _____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date _____

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