

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Carers: provision of support for adult carers

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?

The following issues were raised by during consultation:

*A number of stakeholders asked whether the guideline could address the condition specific needs of those caring for people with **Parkinson's disease, cancer, neurological conditions such as strokes and brain injuries, dementia, mental health problems, and people with a learning disability or on the autistic spectrum***

The committee agreed that the scope remained unchanged and that the guideline was unable to go into specific detail about different carer support needs or interventions that may be associated with care in relation to a specific condition. The guideline has however tried to be inclusive in its considerations of what works for all adult carers. There are other NICE guidelines that say more about the carers role in relation to certain health conditions or social care needs.

*A number of stakeholders raised the fact that many **carers also have a long-term health condition or disability themselves and are often in a mutual caring relationship with the person they are caring for.***

The committee considered these two points separately first including more detail in

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

recommendations about considerations around the health and wellbeing of the carer and secondly making reference to the importance of reviewing needs assessments regularly and recognising that when there are changes in the health or circumstances of one person in a mutual caring relationship the other persons care and support needs are likely to be impacted.

*One stakeholder mentioned male carers and how a project local to them had recently illustrated how differently **male carers** interacted with carer support services and that this should be considered in the guideline.*

The committee discussed and noted this comment but did not feel that there was enough evidence to make any changes to the recommendations which implied different types of care and support based on gender. In fact there was a concern that an attempt to do so could create more discrimination and implied exclusion of certain groups. Recommendations around support service design and local commissioning remain focused on local needs.

*Stakeholders asked if the guideline could cover **young carers** and also say more about **young adult carers***

Whilst the scope of the guideline explicitly excluded young carers under the age of 18 young adult carers are of course implicitly included and the committee considered them when agreeing the recommendations. However, the committee agreed to add a further example to one of the recommendations about changes to the caring role when a young carer turns 18 and transitions into an adult carer role. They also agreed to add in that health and social care organisations should encourage people to recognise their role and rights as carers through developing partnerships with local community organisations including further education colleges.

*Stakeholders asked if the guideline could say more about **older carers**.*

The committee agreed that the guideline had considered the needs of older carers and that the recommendations, though inclusive to all carers, should reflect this throughout. However, they agreed to add further information into the rationale and impact sections and to add an example to one of the recommendations about

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

additional support that carers might need as they become older and less able to care

*A number of stakeholders raised the issue of local eligibility criteria for carer support and means testing and the effects on carers and families in relation to those from **lower socio-economic groups** especially. In particular, the fear of sharing information with the local authority which could affect eligibility to help for the carer or person being cared for, especially the fear of benefits being reduced or stopped all together if the carer starts work, education or training.*

The committee discussed these points and have added in some further detail to the recommendations about the importance of carers having access to information and advice about specialist benefits, financial and legal advice at different stages of the caring journey.

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, changes made to the recommendations have not made it more difficult for particular groups to access carer support.

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, none of the changes to recommendations will have an adverse impact on people with disabilities.

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?

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?

No, changes made to the recommendations have not created any new barriers for any particular groups covered by this guideline when accessing carer support.

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

The equality considerations are addressed within the amendments to the recommendations, to the rationale and impact sections and in the committee discussion sections across the following evidence reviews:

RQA - Identifying carers as defined by the Care Act 2014 (including hidden carers)

RQC - Assessment of carers as defined by the Care Act 2014

RQF - Providing practical support for adult carers

RQH - Support needs of adult carers who are caring for people at the end of life

RQI - Supporting carers during changes to the caring role

Updated by Developer

Lisa Boardman (Guideline lead)

Date

28/10/2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead

Christine Carson

Date

09/01/2020