

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## Equality impact assessment

### COVID-19 rapid guideline: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation

The impact on equality has been assessed before publication according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

**Final guideline (to be completed by appropriate NICE staff member before GE consideration of final guideline)**

Have any potential equality issues been identified?

#### **Age**

The guideline makes recommendations on minimising risk by offering alternatives to face-to-face contact, such as video consultations and providing information online. Older people may find it more difficult to use these services, which may increase their feeling of isolation. The guideline attempts to mitigate this by advising several alternative communication methods, including phone consultations.

Older people are more likely to need support from family members or unpaid carers if a face-to-face consultation cannot be avoided. The guideline recommendations allow for this by advising that patients should try to come alone if they can, but allowing for a family member or carer to attend if needed. This also means that children and young people can be accompanied by a parent or carer.

#### **Socioeconomic factors**

Some people may not have access to home delivery services (for example for medicines), because of where they live (for example, rural areas). The recommendations state alternative ways of delivering medicines such as postal or courier services, NHS Volunteer Responders or drive-through pick-up points.

#### **Disability**

Some disabled people may not be able to communicate about their anxiety and fear, which may adversely affect their mental health. Taking these communication needs into account forms part of standard care and is not specific to the COVID-19 pandemic. The guideline overview page will state that this guideline should be used alongside usual [professional guidelines, standards and laws \(including equalities,](#)

Have any potential equality issues been identified?

[safeguarding, communication and mental capacity](#)).

**Ethnicity**

People of white family origin have a higher chance of being matched with a bone marrow donor than people of other family origins. This is a general equalities issue for people waiting for bone marrow transplants and is not different during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Other factors**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS Blood and Transplant has stopped recruiting new stem cell donors, so there may be reduced opportunities to match donors and recipients and undertake bone marrow transplants.

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

Outline amendments agreed by Guidance Executive below, if applicable:

N/A

Approved by Developer: Angela Parkin, Medicines Implementation Consultant and Medicines Adviser - Medicines Education, NICE

Date: 18 May 2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Eric Power, Programme Director – Medicines and Quality

Date 13 May 2020