

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## NICE guidelines

### Equality impact assessment

#### Caesarean birth

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)**

No scoping phase was carried out for this update.

**2.0 Checking for updates and scope: after consultation (to be completed by the Developer and submitted with the revised scope)**

No scope consultation was carried out for this update.

**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?

No scoping phase was carried out for this update.

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?

There was evidence for a reduced risk of wound infections in women with class 3 obesity (BMI 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more) having a caesarean birth using a higher transverse incision. The committee therefore included advice in their recommendations on how the surgical technique may need to be adapted for this group of women and pregnant people.

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

The reasons for the recommendations on the technique to be used in women and pregnant people with class 3 obesity is explained in the committee's discussion of the evidence and the rationale that accompanies the recommendation.

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 recommendations do not make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services.

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, there is not potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability.

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?

The recommendations specific to women and pregnant people with class 3 obesity may improve outcomes for these people by reducing their risk of wound infection after caesarean birth.

Completed by Developer: Hilary Eadon

Date: 31 May 2023

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

Date: 26 June 2023

#### 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?

- Disability – one stakeholder suggested adding in references to reasonable adjustments as stated in the Equality Act 2010, adaptations to communication, and the role of a learning disability liaison nurse. The committee agreed that making reasonable adjustments as required by the Equality Act is a statutory requirement and so this requirement would not be repeated in each individual NICE guideline. The sections of the guideline being updated did not include specific considerations on appropriate methods of communication as this is already covered in other sections of the guideline on ‘provision of information’ and ‘shared decision-making’ which were not being updated and in the NICE guideline on Patient experience in adult NHS services. The committee therefore did not amend the recommendations.

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?

- None of the changes made to the recommendations after consultation make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups.

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?

- None of the changes made to the recommendations after consultation have the potential to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability.

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 barriers were identified in section 4.2.

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

- The committee's consideration of the equality issues raised at consultation have been discussed in the responses to the stakeholders.

Updated by Developer: Hilary Eadon

Date: 24 July 2023

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

Date: 7 August 2023