

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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#### NICE guidelines

##### Equality impact assessment

#### Postnatal care up to 8 weeks after birth (update)

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?

Four main groups have been identified as requiring particular consideration:

1. Potential equality issues have been identified relating to age, particularly with respect to younger mothers (aged 17 or under).
2. Potential equality issues have been identified relating to women with physical and cognitive disabilities
3. Potential equality issues have been identified relating to women who find it difficult to access postnatal care services.
4. Potential equality issues have been identified relating to vulnerable women. This is especially relevant when considering questions relating to substance abuse, domestic violence, abuse and other nonmedical harm to women and babies. Women may be vulnerable for a variety of reasons, and vulnerability is defined in NICE CG110 (Pregnancy and complex social factors: a model for service provision for pregnant women with complex social factors) as meaning “women with complex social pregnancies who in general find it more difficult to receive appropriate care”. Examples of reasons why a woman might be

vulnerable are because she is a victim of domestic violence, she speaks English as a second language (or not at all) or because of a pre-existing risk of inequality, such as age or disability (including cognitive disabilities such as learning difficulties). It is thought that considerations relevant to ensuring equality will apply for all of these reasons.

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?

The committee will examine the evidence to see if it supports making differential recommendations based solely on age, the presence of a physical or cognitive disability, location or vulnerability.

It is likely that for certain questions the Committee will want to consider specific recommendations for particular population groups.

Completed by Developer \_\_\_\_Alex Bates \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_06/10/17 \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead \_\_\_\_Christine Carson \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_06/10/2017 \_\_\_\_\_