

1.0.7 DOC EIA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Babies, children and young people's experience of healthcare

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?

Yes, five equality issues were raised by stakeholders during consultation.

The first was a general comment that the guideline did not make explicit enough the rights and needs for children with disabilities – either physical, sensory or learning – and the need to make reasonable adjustments. To address this, the committee made a new recommendation in the overarching principles section at the beginning of the guideline about disabilities, to explicitly highlight the Equality Act 2010 legislation. The committee also added details or amendments to some of the communication and information recommendations regarding sensory and learning disabilities.

The second issue related to digital poverty and inequality in access to technology. This may prevent some children and young people or the parents or carers of babies and young children from taking part in video consultations, having access to telephone or text messages, or being able to access online information, resources delivered via apps, or digital health records. To address this, the committee made two new recommendations in the overarching principles section at the beginning of the guideline about digital access. These recommendations advise that not all children and young people, or the parents or carers of babies or young children will have access to digital resources, and that non-digital methods should be available as an alternative.

The third issue related to the use of the correct gender pronouns when addressing

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

children and young people. To address this the committee added an additional section to a recommendation on communication to advise that children should be asked how they wished to be addressed, including their pronouns.

The fourth issue raised related to privacy and confidentiality for children or young people with disabilities or who require support to communicate. In many cases, parents or carers will be present to assist these children communicate, but this then removes the ability of these children to have private conversations without their parents or carers present. To address this, the committee amended their recommendations on communication to provide more detail on communicating with children who need support, and added an additional recommendation into the section on privacy and confidentiality to advise that additional support is provided if necessary, to enable children and young people to have private conversations with healthcare professionals without the presence or involvement of their parent or carer, and providing some examples of how this could be done.

The fifth issue related to the consideration of parents or carers of babies and young children from minority ethnic or other under-represented groups. Although several of the recommendations had advised actively targeting or supporting children or young people from these groups (for example, in the recommendations on measuring experience, design of services or access to healthcare), it had not mentioned parents or carers. The committee addressed this by including parents or carers of babies or young children in these recommendations as well.

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?

The recommendations have changed but, as detailed above, the changes have been to explicitly make access for specific groups easier.

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?

The recommendations have changed but, as detailed above, the changes have been

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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?

to explicitly improve services for 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 questions 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

As described above in 4.1, some of the recommendations have been changed to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to services.

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

Yes, all the changes to the recommendations outlined in 4.1 have been explained in the rationale and impact sections and in the committee's discussion of the evidence of the relevant evidence reviews.

Updated by Developer: Hilary Eadon

Date: 1st June 2021

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Simon Ellis

Date: 16th June 2021