

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (or encephalopathy)/chronic fatigue syndrome: diagnosis and management

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?

At the stakeholder workshop the following populations were identified as having potential equality issues and should be considered within the development of scope:

- Older people
- Pregnant women
- Black and Minority Ethnic
- Men

It was noted that there may be challenges for these groups to be identified and diagnosed with ME/CFS and then to access support services. Older people and pregnant women might need extra support.

At the stakeholder workshop people in different locations, particularly in rural settings were identified as having potential challenges in accessing services. This could be a

result of transport availability or lack of services in the area.

It was noted there could be challenges for people in low socio-economic groups accessing services.

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?

These groups are not excluded from the scope.

Completed by Developer _____

Date _____ 25/05/2018 _____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date _____ 25/05/2018 _____

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

2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during consultation, and, if so, what are they?

Stakeholder comment advised that there are potential equality issues in relation to access to diagnosis and treatment for people who share many of the characteristics protected under equality Law. The characteristics particularly mentioned were socio economic factors, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Stakeholders considered that the difficulties that children and young people have in access to care as a significant equality issue.
People with ME/CFS may have long-term and substantial health impairment sufficient to be considered to have a disability.

2.2 Have any changes to the scope been made as a result of consultation to highlight potential equality issues?

No

2.3 Is the primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific disability-related communication need?

No

Updated by Developer _____

Date _____ 18/09/2018 _____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date _____ 18/09/2018 _____