

1.0.7 DOC EIA (2019)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms: safe prescribing and withdrawal management for adults

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 Is the proposed primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration? No.
If so, what is it and what action might be taken by NICE or the developer to meet this need? (For example, adjustments to committee processes, additional forms of consultation.)

N/A

1.2 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?

The following groups were identified as important to consider:

- People with cognitive impairment.
- People with current or past history of substance misuse.
- People with current or past mental health diagnoses.
- People prescribed these medicines in secure settings (prisons and immigration removal centres).
- Black and minority ethnic groups: there is potential for communication challenges arising from possible language barriers.
- People with multimorbidity and frailty
- The homeless
- People with learning disabilities

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1.3 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

These groups will not be excluded from the scope as they are groups who have been demonstrated to be more vulnerable to dependence on prescribed medicines and are more likely to be prescribed these medicines, however it is not expected that guidance should differ for these groups as safe prescribing and management principles should remain the same.

Completed by Developer: Serena Carville

Date: 23 August 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Kay Nolan

Date: 28 August 2019

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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?

Issues relating to medication in pregnancy, particularly in relation to withdrawal symptoms in new born babies was raised. However, the management of withdrawal in new born babies is outside the scope of the guideline.

Older people were suggested as a group requiring special consideration, particularly those with frailty who are likely to be prescribed multiple medications. This had already been noted prior to consultation within people with multimorbidity or frailty.

It was suggested that people with dementia were also listed as a group requiring special consideration. This group was already considered prior to consultation within people with cognitive impairment.

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

No additions were made to the scope, the section on groups where this guideline may be particularly relevant was removed as it was considered that the recommendations should equally apply to all groups.

2.3 Have any of the changes made led to a change in the primary focus of the guideline which would require consideration of a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration?

If so, what is it and what action might be taken by NICE or the developer to meet this need? (For example, adjustments to committee processes, additional forms of consultation)

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No.

Updated by Developer: Serena Carville

Date: 11 October 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Kay Nolan

Date: 19 November 2019