

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Epilepsies in Adults, Children and Young People

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?

Three equality issues were raised by stakeholders during consultation.

The first issue raised was that there is not a separate section for people with learning disabilities, and therefore the stakeholder felt not enough attention had been given to this group. The committee highlighted that there are numerous recommendations relating to people with learning disabilities (access to whole genome sequencing [1.4.6]; their information needs [2.1.4]; supporting them to access tertiary services [3.1.2]; drug monitoring [4.5.1] and monitoring in pregnancy [4.6.5]; provision of surgery [8.2.4]; addressing their mental health and cognitive concerns [9.1.1 and 9.2.2] and planning for transition [11.2.3]) and after a detailed discussion it was decided to keep the recommendations within their relevant sections to ensure that people with learning disabilities and complex needs are considered by all healthcare professionals throughout their journey of care. However, to address this comment, an implementation tool will be developed by NICE to sit alongside the guideline that does draw out the specific considerations for people with learning disabilities that would be more accessible.

The second issue raised was in relation older people as the stakeholder asserted that this group had not been given enough consideration, particularly in relation to

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pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic issues with polypharmacy and comorbidity. To address this issue a recommendation was drafted in section 4.1 to highlight the importance of considering these issues for older people. A recommendation was also added in the Information and Support section to ensure it meets the needs of older people such as providing the information in a more accessible format and ensuring information is shared with other agencies and services involved in the care of older people. The third issue raised was in relation to those with mental health difficulties requiring specialist care and raising awareness of risk of suicide. To address this recommendations were made in section 9 to be alert to anxiety and mental health difficulties requiring referral to mental health services and cross reference was made to other relevant NICE guidelines. A recommendation was added to highlight the higher prevalence of neurodevelopmental comorbidities and the additional care and support required by children and young people with developmental difficulties or cognitive impairment.

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 improve services for people with learning disabilities, mental health difficulties and for older people.

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 to explicitly improve services for people with learning disabilities, mental health difficulties and for older people.

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?

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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?

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?

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: Katharine Andrea and Gill Ritchie

Date: 15/02/2022

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nichole Taske

Date: 26/04/2022

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5.0 After Guidance Executive amendments – if applicable (to be completed by appropriate NICE staff member after Guidance Executive)

5.1 Outline amendments agreed by Guidance Executive below, if applicable:
No amendments made

Approved by Developer: Katharine Andrea and Gill Ritchie

Date: 5/4/22

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nichole Taske

Date: 26/04/2022