

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Multiple Sclerosis in adults: management (update)

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

3.0 Guideline development: before consultation (to be completed by the Developer before consultation on the draft guideline)

3.1 Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

Pregnancy and maternity – Specific recommendations have been made to address the information and support needs of people who are considering having children (1.2.11-1.2.14). This includes relevant recommendations which were included under 'Modifiable risk factors' in the previous version of the guideline.

People living in rural areas – cross reference to the NICE guidelines on patient experience and shared decision making have been made. These guidelines emphasise the importance of tailoring healthcare to the needs of the individual and involving people in decisions about their care. The patient experience guideline makes specific reference to providing information to services that may not be provided locally (1.3.3). The guideline committee discussed (see diagnostic criteria committee discussion and the committee discussion of the evidence in evidence review A) whether any of the recommendations needed to be tailored to the needs of people living in rural areas for example the recommendations on diagnosis by a consultant neurologist (1.1.5 - who may not provide services locally) but agreed that no edits were required as consultant input is essential.

3.2 Have any **other** potential equality issues (in addition to those identified during the scoping process) been identified, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic factors
- Other definable characteristics (these are examples):
 - refugees
 - asylum seekers
 - migrant workers
 - looked-after children
 - people who are homeless
 - prisoners and young offenders
 - any others identified

No other issues identified during development

3.3 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the guideline for consultation, and, if so, where?

See 3.1.

3.4 Do the preliminary recommendations 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?

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic factors
- Other definable characteristics (these are examples):
 - refugees
 - asylum seekers
 - migrant workers
 - looked-after children
 - people who are homeless
 - prisoners and young offenders
 - any others identified

No

3.5 Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No

3.6 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 box 3.4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to advance equality?

No

Completed by Developer: Sharon Swain

Date: 15th October 2021

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Kay Nolan

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