

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.

4.0 Final guideline

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

A stakeholder commented on how it is important to recognise that cognitive impairment may impact on the person's ability to retain information and make decisions on their care. MS professionals should have the knowledge to recognise this and support the patient and their carers appropriately by sign posting to other services for support.

In recommendation 1.2.9 the guideline highlights the importance of discussing advance care planning if you expect the person's cognitive status will deteriorate.

A stakeholder asked that the guideline highlight the potential impact of cognitive impairment (executive functioning) on mental capacity to make decisions, which may not be initially evident without a thorough assessment.

Recommendation 1.2.18 refers to the NICE guideline on decision-making and mental capacity.

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?

No

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?

No

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?

No

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

The information and support needs of people who are planning to have children are covered by the recommendations in section 1.2. They are supported by the information in the rationale and impact section for these recommendations and in the committee's discussion of the evidence in evidence review A.

The information and support needs for people as MS becomes advanced (for example when there are changes in cognition) are covered by the recommendations in section 1.2. They are discussed in the rationale and impact for the recommendations on providing information and support. A discussion of these is

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

provided in the committee's discussion of the evidence in evidence review A.

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