

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE
EXCELLENCE**

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Osteoarthritis: assessment and management

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?

The committee noted osteoarthritis is more common in older people many of whom also have a variety of other conditions. They noted that people with multiple long-term conditions are likely to benefit from a tailored approach in line with NICE's guideline on multimorbidity (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng56>) and made a cross referral to this guideline.

The committee noted that in most cases the research identified does not appear to represent the diverse population of people with osteoarthritis. They agreed that any further research should be representative of the population, including people from different family backgrounds, and socioeconomic backgrounds, disabled people, and people of different ages and genders. With this in mind the committee subgrouped their research recommendations by these protected characteristics where appropriate while suggesting that people from each group should be included in the research to ensure that it is applicable to the entire population.

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?

The committee identified a lack of qualitative research into the information needs for people with osteoarthritis from different ethnic and socio-economic groups and those with learning disability, health literacy issues and severe mental illness. They also identified a lack of qualitative research into what information people with osteoarthritis want in relation to flare ups of their condition

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

Specific equalities issues related to each review are described in the evidence report section titled 'Other factors the committee took into account'.

A research recommendation was made related to the patient information needs and is described in the patient information evidence report.

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?

Exercise, weight loss (where appropriate) and education are described as core treatments for osteoarthritis. The focus is to try and help people help themselves. It is unknown whether this is more difficult for people from different ethnic and socio-economic groups and those with learning disability, health literacy issues and severe mental illness.

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?

The committee are not aware of any.

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?

A research recommendation has been made to identify what information would help people.

Completed by Developer: Carlos Sharpin

Date: 25/02/22

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nichole Taske

Date: 28/04/2022