

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Intrapartum care

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?

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.)

No, the primary focus of the guideline is not a population with a specific communication or engagement need.

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?

- Age – older women may be at a higher risk of complications during pregnancy and birth
- Disability – women with disabilities may have difficulty accessing services or birth settings
- Gender reassignment – the guideline will refer to ‘women’ but this should be

taken to include people who do not identify as women but who are pregnant or who have given birth.

- Pregnancy and maternity – no potential equality issues identified (as the whole guideline is about pregnancy and birth)
- Race – women from a BAME background may be at a higher risk of complications during pregnancy and birth
- Religion or belief - no potential equality issues identified
- Sex - no potential equality issues identified
- Sexual orientation - no potential equality issues identified
- Socio-economic factors - women from disadvantaged backgrounds or poorer socio-economic groups may be at a higher risk of complications during pregnancy and birth and may find it more difficult to access services
- 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 potential equality issues identified. Women in these groups may find it more difficult to access services and so may have had no/limited antenatal care but then would be considered under the NICE guideline on Intrapartum care for women with existing medical conditions or obstetric complications and their babies.

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

- Age – older women may be at a higher risk of complications during pregnancy and birth, and so may need to be considered as a sub-group when considering the safety and effectiveness of interventions or services. Separate recommendations may be needed for this group.
- Disability – disabled women may need adaptations to equipment and procedures to account for their disabilities and ensure they can access services, which will

need to be taken into account when making recommendations.

- Gender reassignment – the guideline will refer to ‘women’ but this should be taken to include people who do not identify as women but who are pregnant or who have given birth. This will be explained in the guideline and so will not require additional specific recommendations.
- Race – women from a BAME background may be at a higher risk of complications during pregnancy and birth, and so may need to be considered as a sub-group when considering the safety and effectiveness of interventions or services. Separate recommendations may be needed for this group.
- Socio-economic factors – women from disadvantaged backgrounds may need more support to access services, which will need to be taken into account when making recommendations.

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