

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality and health inequalities assessment (EHIA) template

Intrapartum care for healthy women and babies (CG190)

The considerations and potential impact on equality and health inequalities have been considered throughout the guidance development, maintenance and update process according to the principles of the NICE equality policy and those outlined in [Developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#).

This EHIA relates to recommendations on:

- Choosing planned place of birth
- Water birth

Appendix A: equality and health inequalities assessment (EHIA)

2023 exceptional surveillance of intrapartum care for healthy women and babies (CG190)

STAGE 1. Surveillance review

Date of surveillance review: May 2023

Focus of surveillance review: choosing planned place of birth, and recommendations on water birth.

Exceptional review

1.1 On reviewing the existing EIA or EHIA and issues log for the guideline(s), describe below any equality and health inequalities issues relevant to the current surveillance review

None specifically noted in relation to choosing planned place of birth or water birth. However generally the following groups were highlighted:

- Ethnicity
- Women who have been subjected to female genital mutilation (this issue was raised by stakeholders)
- Women with a sensory impairment (this issue was raised by stakeholders)
- Women with a physical disability (this issue was raised by stakeholders)
- Women with a learning disability (this issue was raised by stakeholders)
- Religious belief (this issue was raised by stakeholders)
- Race – travelling community (this issue was raised by stakeholders)

1.2 Did you identify any equality and health inequalities issues through initial intelligence gathering (for example, national policy documents, topic expert/patient group feedback, evidence searches, implementation data)?

Searches identified a retrospective cohort study in England ([Aughey 2021](#)) of 46,088 low and intermediate risk singleton vaginal births in 2015/2016 that found that white women from higher socioeconomic backgrounds were more likely to be recorded as giving birth in water. The study recommended that maternity services should focus on ensuring equitable access to waterbirth.

1.3 If you have consulted stakeholders or topic experts, what questions did you ask about equality and health inequalities issues?

Not applicable

1.4 What equality and health inequalities issues have been identified during this surveillance review and what was the impact on the current review and outcome decision? [If an update is proposed, include information in the update and outcomes plan]

There were no specific inequalities noted for place of birth.

It was identified during the exceptional surveillance review of water birth that there may be an inequality in access to water birth, with more white women from higher socioeconomic groups accessing water birth. The current surveillance review decision is to wait until the [POOL study](#) has published (expected 2024) before looking at the evidence base again, at which time the inequality in access to water birth will also be considered.

Completed by surveillance reviewer: CM, technical analyst

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Approved by NICE surveillance associate director: KN, associate director

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