

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

CLINICAL GUIDELINE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING

Clinical guideline: Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

As outlined in [The guidelines manual \(2012\)](#), NICE has a duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. The purpose of this form is to document the consideration of equality issues at the scoping stage of the guideline development process. This equality impact assessment is designed to support compliance with NICE's obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

Table 1 lists the equality characteristics and other equality factors NICE needs to consider – not just population subgroups sharing the 'protected characteristics' defined in the Equality Act, but also groups affected by health inequalities associated with socioeconomic factors or other forms of disadvantage. Table 1 does not attempt to provide further interpretation of the protected characteristics.

This form should be completed by the guideline developer before scope sign-off, and approved by the NICE lead for the guideline at the same time as the scope. The form will be published on the NICE website with the final scope.

The form is used to:

- record any equality issues raised in connection with the guideline during scoping by anybody involved, including NICE, the National Collaborating Centre, the GDG Chair and stakeholders
- demonstrate that each of these issues has been considered and explain how it will be taken into account during guideline development if appropriate
- highlight areas where the guideline may advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations
- ensure that the guideline will not discriminate against any of the equality groups.

Table 1 NICE equality groups

Protected characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age• Disability• Gender reassignment• Pregnancy and maternity• Race• Religion or belief• Sex• Sexual orientation• Marriage and civil partnership (protected only in respect of the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination)
Additional characteristics to be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socio-economic status <p>Depending on policy or other context, this may cover factors such as social exclusion and deprivation associated with geographical areas, or inequalities or variations associated with other geographical distinctions (for example, the North–South divide; urban versus rural).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other <p>Other groups in the population experience poor health because of circumstances often affected by, but going beyond, sharing a protected characteristic or socioeconomic status. Whether such groups can be identified depends on the guidance topic and the evidence. The following are examples of groups that may be covered in NICE guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• refugees and asylum seekers• migrant workers• looked-after children• homeless people.

1. Have equality issues been identified during scoping?

- Record any issues that have been identified and plans to tackle them during guideline development. For example
 - if the effect of an intervention may vary by ethnic group, what plans are there to investigate this?
 - if a test is likely to be used to define eligibility for an intervention, how will the GDG consider whether all groups can complete the test?

No equality issues have been identified within the scope.

It was noted that various lymphoma subtypes preferentially affect various ethnic groups, including those of African-Caribbean descent and those from the Far East. However, the lymphoma types that affect these groups are not dealt with in this guideline. The reason for this is that they affect very small numbers of patients. According to the HMRN database fewer than 100 people per annum will be diagnosed with these conditions. It is also noted that these disease types have been the subject of a recent guideline produced by a professional body.

2. If there are exclusions listed in the scope (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified?

- Are the reasons legitimate? (that is, they do not discriminate against a particular group)
- Is the exclusion proportionate?

- **Children under 16 years.**

This group has been excluded because the treatment protocols for children are different and require separate consideration.

- **Adults and young people (16 years and older) with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma.**

Small lymphocytic lymphoma is treated as a chronic leukaemia and as such does not fit within a lymphoma guideline. It has been excluded to allow for the group to focus on other common lymphomas with a predominantly nodal presentation.

- **Adults and young people (16 years and older) with lymphoblastic lymphoma.**

Lymphoblastic lymphoma is treated as an acute leukaemia and is sufficiently different to warrant their exclusion from this guideline.

- **Adults and young people (16 years and older) with rare T-cell lymphoma, such as, NK T-cell lymphoma, mycosis fungoides, Sezary syndrome, anaplastic large-cell lymphoma of T/null type ALK-, anaplastic large-cell lymphoma of T/null type, anaplastic large cell lymphoma of T/null type ALK+, enteropathy-type T-cell lymphoma, primary cutaneous CD30-**

positive T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder, extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma, nasal type, adult T-cell lymphoma/leukaemia (HTLV-1 positive).

Lymphoma subtypes affecting less than 1% of the population will not be included in this guideline. The GDG has a finite timescale and resource to complete the guideline and has been asked to prioritise the content.

- **Adults and young people (16 years and older) with post transplant lymphoproliferative disease.**

This group of patients are biologically different from patients with common lymphomas. The treatment is sufficiently different to warrant their exclusion from this scope.

- **Adults and young people (16 years and older) with skin lymphoma.**

This group of lymphomas are relatively rare and are biologically different from patients with common lymphomas. The treatment is sufficiently different to warrant their exclusion from this scope.

- **Adults and young people (16 years and older) with central nervous system lymphoma.**

This group of lymphomas are relatively rare and are biologically different from patients with common lymphomas. The treatment is sufficiently different to warrant their exclusion from this scope.

3. Have relevant stakeholders been consulted?

- Have all relevant stakeholders, including those with an interest in equality issues been consulted?
- Have comments highlighting potential for discrimination or advancing equality been considered?

Stakeholder Consultation took place from 8th November 2013 until 5th December 2013.