

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

CLINICAL GUIDELINE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING

Clinical guideline: Mental health problems in people with learning disabilities: management of mental health problems in people with learning disabilities.

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?

The following equality issues have been identified during scoping:

Ethnicity

- Access issues for those from minority ethnic groups
- Issues around services meeting the needs of different ethnic groups.

Age

- Access issues for older adults
- Transition issues for young people between child and adult services.

Degree of disability

- Needs of those with profound disabilities, particularly individuals with severe sensory impairments and communication needs (e.g. non-verbal).
- Linked to this, accessibility for those who lack the language skills to convey their needs: both service users who have low verbal ability, but also service users/families who have difficulty with English
- Those with mild learning disabilities may be considered ineligible for support.

Socioeconomic status

- Inequalities or variations in service quality and funding associated with geographical distinctions (e.g. urban versus rural).

Religion or belief

- Service users and carers may have specific issues in relation to religion that may impact on their interpretation of mental health problems.

Other

- Needs of those in contact with the criminal justice system.

The GDG will specifically consider these issues across all areas of guideline development.

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

- Are the reasons legitimate?
- Is the exclusion proportionate?

The population of this guideline is children, young people, and adults with learning disabilities and mental health problems, and their families and paid carers. Genetic conditions associated with learning disabilities and mental health problems will also be considered.

An issue that will not be covered is the specific care and treatment of co-existing disorders. The reason for this is that they have already been well addressed for people with learning disabilities as part of other NICE guidance (e.g. autism). The exclusion of this population is proportionate.

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?

Equality issues were raised in the scoping workshop and during the stakeholder consultation.

All comments from these meetings highlighting potential for discrimination or advancing equality have consequently been considered in this draft of the scope.