

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Lyme disease: diagnosis and management

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

1.0 Scope: before consultation

1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the draft scope, before consultation, and, if so, what are they?

There is a variable incubation period for Lyme disease from a few days to one month and in approximately two thirds of cases this is followed by a circular, target-like rash centred on the bite, known as erythema migrans. It is recognized that identification of skin rashes may be difficult in people from black and minority ethnic groups.

Some people may believe that pregnant women and people who are immunocompromised may respond differently to the infection with impact on diagnostic testing. In pregnancy there may also be restrictions on the types of treatment available because of the risk to the foetus.

1.2 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? For example, if population groups, treatments or settings are excluded from the scope, are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

General Practitioners and other clinicians will be used to assessing for rashes in all populations so it is not anticipated that this will require separate recommendations in the guideline at this time.

The guideline committee will need to review the evidence about diagnostic test accuracy in women who are pregnant or in the case of immunocompromised (primary or secondary). It is anticipated that these populations will form a sub-group in evidence reviews to ensure that, where evidence exists on these issues, the committee are able to make evidence-based recommendations to the NHS. Similarly, evidence will be sought about appropriate management strategies in pregnancy.

Completed by Developer

Date 8.3.16

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date 8.3.16

2.0 Scope: after consultation (To be completed by the developer and submitted with the final scope)

2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during consultation, and, if so, what are they?

No further equalities issues have been raised by stakeholders at consultation.

The stakeholder comments have reflected the issues in pregnant women and in people who are immunocompromised. The approach outlined in this document to address these issues remains appropriate.

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2.2 Have any changes to the scope been made as a result of consultation to highlight potential equality issues?

Further to consultation comments, we have included a question to determine the evidence base for person to person transmission of Lyme disease acknowledging the potential issues related to pregnancy and need for focussed recommendations if appropriate evidence is found.

2.3 Is the primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific disability-related communication need?

If so, is an alternative version of the 'Information for the Public' document recommended?

If so, which alternative version is recommended?

The alternative versions available are:

- large font or audio versions for a population with sight loss;
- British Sign Language videos for a population who are deaf from birth;
- 'Easy read' versions for people with learning disabilities or cognitive impairment.

no

Updated by Developer _____

Date_31.5.16_____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date_____31.5.16_____

3.0 Guideline development: before consultation (to be completed by the developer before draft guideline consultation)

3.1 Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

An evidence review was conducted to assess the evidence for transmission of Lyme disease, including transmission of mother to child.

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?

No

3.3 Were the Committee's considerations of equality issues described in the consultation document, and, if so, where?

Consideration of treatment of pregnant women and their babies is included in evidence report M.

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?

No.

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?

No.

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 questions 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to advance equality?

N/A

Completed by Developer _____

Date__15.08.2017_____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date_____15.08.2017_____

4.0 Final guideline (to be completed by the Developer before GE consideration of final guideline)

4.1 Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

No additional items were raised during consultation. The care of women who are pregnant was raised but this is already considered in the guideline.

4.2 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that 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?

No

4.3 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No

4.4 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, 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 questions 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

N/A

4.5 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final guideline document, and, if so, where?

Evidence review M included evidence, recommendations and discussion about care of women who are pregnant.

Updated by Developer _____

Date: 12.01.2018 _____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date__ 12.01.2018 _____

5.0 After Guidance Executive amendments – if applicable (To be completed by appropriate NICE staff member after Guidance Executive)

5.1 Outline amendments agreed by Guidance Executive below, if applicable:

None.

Approved by Developer _____

Date _____ 26.03.2018 _____

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead _____

Date _____ 26.03.2018 _____

