

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND
CARE EXCELLENCE**

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE

QUALITY STANDARDS

Quality standard topic: Older people with social care needs and multiple long-term conditions

Output: Equality analysis form – Topic overview

Introduction

As outlined in the [Quality Standards process guide](http://www.nice.org.uk) (available from www.nice.org.uk), NICE has a duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people from different groups. The purpose of this form is to document the consideration of equality issues in each stage of the development process before reaching the final output that will be approved by the NICE Guidance Executive. This equality analysis 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, i.e. not just population groups sharing the 'protected characteristics' defined in the Equality Act but also those affected by health inequalities associated with socioeconomic factors or other forms of disadvantage. The table does not attempt to provide further interpretation of the protected characteristics. This is because it is likely to be simpler, and more efficient, to use the evidence underpinning the quality standard to define population groups within the broad protected characteristic categories rather than to start with possibly unsuitable checklists created for other purposes, such as social surveys or HR monitoring tools.

The form should be used to:

- confirm that equality issues have been considered and identify any relevant to the topic
- ensure that the quality standards outputs do not discriminate against any of the equality groups
- highlight planned action relevant to equality
- highlight areas where quality standards may advance equality of opportunity.

This form is completed by the NICE quality standards internal team at each stage within the development process:

- Topic overview (to elicit additional comments as part of active stakeholder engagement)
- Quality Standards Advisory Committee – meeting 1
- Quality Standards Advisory Committee – meeting 2

Table 1

Protected characteristics
Age
Disability
Gender reassignment
Pregnancy and maternity
Race
Religion or belief
Sex
Sexual orientation
Other characteristics
Socio-economic status 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 (e.g. the North/South divide, urban versus rural).
Marital status (including civil partnership)

Other categories

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 are identifiable depends on the guidance topic and the evidence. The following are examples of groups covered in NICE guidance:

- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Migrant workers
- Looked after children
- Homeless people.

Quality standards equality analysis

Stage: Topic overview

Topic: Older people with social care needs and multiple long-term conditions

1. Have any equality issues impacting upon equality groups been identified during this stage of the development process?

- Please state briefly any relevant equality issues identified and the plans to tackle them during development.

The NICE guideline on older people with social care needs and multiple long-term conditions (NG22) identifies the following equality issues which may be relevant to the quality standard:

- Health or social care services should be sensitive and accommodating to different cultural, religious and LGBT requirements.
- People of ethnic minority backgrounds, recent migrants and people who do not speak English as their first language may have reduced knowledge of, and hence access to, social care services, and may find them more difficult to access.
- Older people with multiple long term conditions may be affected by a range of issues which limit their ability to lead independent lives, including environmental constraints, and attitudes which limit expectations and aspirations in their care. Some older people may lack mental capacity and therefore it will be important to ensure that the planning and delivery of social care protects their legal rights.
- People with communication difficulties and/or sensory impairment may need communication to be adapted to ensure their needs are met.
- Lower socioeconomic status is associated with increased difficulty in accessing information about care options; and ability to pay for care.
- The delivery of health and social care services for older people with a complex range of conditions may be logistically difficult in rural areas, and older people living in rural areas may find themselves isolated due to a lack of public transport.
- It has been suggested that women and ethnic minority carers may be expected to provide informal care more than their male/white counterparts.

Any specific issues relating to these groups and any other equality issues identified will be addressed during development of the quality standard.

2. Have relevant bodies and stakeholders been consulted, including those with a specific interest in equalities?

- Have comments highlighting potential for discrimination or advancing equality been considered?

This is the first stage of the process which will look to elicit comments from stakeholders.

Standing members for Quality Standards Advisory Committees (QSACs) have been recruited by open advert with relevant bodies and stakeholders given the opportunity to apply. In addition to these standing committee members, specialist committee members from a range of professional and lay backgrounds relevant to older people with social care needs and multiple long term conditions are being recruited. The topic overview and request for areas for quality improvement will be published and wide stakeholder comment invited, including from those with a specific interest in equalities.

3. Have any population groups, treatments or settings been excluded from coverage by the quality standard at this stage in the process? Are these exclusions legal and justified?

- Are the reasons for justifying any exclusion legitimate?

This quality standard will focus on older people and will not include younger adults and children with long term conditions receiving social care support. The quality standard is focussed on people over 65 but may also be relevant to some people under 65 such as those with early-onset dementia. The needs of younger adults and children receiving social care support will be addressed in future topic specific quality standards.

4. If applicable, do any of the quality statements make it impossible or unreasonably difficult in practice for a specific group to access a service or element of a service?

- Does access to a service or element of a service depend on membership of a specific group?
- Does a service or element of the service discriminate unlawfully against a group?
- Do people with disabilities find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to receive a service or element of a service?

Not applicable at this stage.

5. If applicable, does the quality standard advance equality?

- Please state if the quality standard, including statements, measures and indicators, as described will advance equality of opportunity, for example by making access more likely for certain groups, by tailoring the service to certain groups, or by making reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities?

Not applicable at this stage but the quality standard will address any equality issues identified during its development.