NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE quality standards

Equality impact assessment

Suspected neurological conditions: recognition and referral

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

### 1. TOPIC ENGAGEMENT STAGE

### 1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during this stage of the development process?

The guideline committee highlighted that some people may have difficulties describing their symptoms or responding to clinicians’ questions during assessment. There may a risk of delayed recognition and referral among the following groups:

• non-English speakers

• people with speech impediments

• people with learning disabilities

### 1.2 Have any population groups, treatments or settings been excluded from coverage by the quality standard at this stage in the process. Are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

Neonates (infants under the age of 28 days) have been excluded from the primary development source.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Rachel Gick

Date: 01 / 10 / 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

Date: 01 / 10 / 2019

### 2. PRE-CONSULTATION STAGE

### 2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the quality standard (including those identified during the topic engagement process)? How have they been addressed?

The importance of people with suspected neurological conditions in general as well as:

* non-English speakers
* people with speech impediments
* people with learning disabilities
* people with acquired cognitive deficits

being able to access, navigate, and understand health services has been raised both at the topic engagement stage and during development of the quality standard. Additional focus in the Overview of the quality standard has been given to statements 1, 3, and 6 in the quality standard on [patient experience in adult NHS services](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs15). These sections are noted as particularly relevant in the context of supporting people with suspected neurological conditions in the guideline.

### 2.2 Have any changes to the scope of the quality standard been made as a result of topic engagement to highlight potential equality issues?

No changes have been made to the scope of the quality standard at this stage.

### 2.3 Do the draft quality statements 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?

Statements in the quality standard should improve access to services for people with suspected neurological conditions. They should not result in more difficulty for any other groups.

### 2.4 Is there potential for the draft quality statements to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

The statements in the quality standard should not have an adverse impact on people with disabilities.

### 2.5 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 2.1, 2.2 or 2.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE’s obligation to advance equality?

No

Completed by lead technical analyst: Daniel Smithson

Date: 07 / 02 / 2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

Date: 10 / 02 / 2020

© NICE 2020 All rights reserved. Subject to [Notice of rights](https://www.nice.org.uk/terms-and-conditions#notice-of-rights)

### 3. POST CONSULTATION STAGE

### 3.1 Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation stage, and, if so, how has the committee addressed them?

No specific additional equality issues or health inequalities were identified.

### 3.2 If the quality statements have changed after the consultation stage, are there any 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?

Statements added to the quality standard after consultation should improve access to services for people with suspected neurological conditions. They should not result in more difficulty for any other groups

### 3.3 If the quality statements 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?

The statements added to the quality standard after consultation should not have an adverse impact on people with disabilities.

### 3.4 If the quality statements 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 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE’s obligations to advance equality?

Not applicable.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Daniel Smithson

Date: 10/11/2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Mark Minchin

Date: 18/11/2020

© NICE 2021. All rights reserved. Subject to [Notice of rights](https://www.nice.org.uk/terms-and-conditions#notice-of-rights).