NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE quality standards

Equality impact assessment

Rheumatoid arthritis in over 16s (update)

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?

### No equality issues have been identified at this stage.

### 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?

The quality standard for rheumatoid arthritis will not cover children (younger than 16) with juvenile idiopathic arthritis as children require different management to adults. Other forms of chronic inflammatory arthritis will not be covered as there are already published quality standards on psoriasis ([QS40](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs40)) and spondyloarthritis ([QS170](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs170)).

Completed by lead technical analyst: Charlotte Fairclough

Date: 14/ 03 / 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

Date: 27 / 03 / 2019

### 2. PRE-CONSULTATION STAGE

The QSAC raised concerns that information needs to be tailored for people with childbearing potential, as treatment of rheumatoid arthritis may be different in this group. The quality standard makes clear that management should be tailored to individual needs. Statement 2 highlights considerations for people planning to conceive, pregnant and breastfeeding.

### 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 QSAC advised that statements regarding education and information should include accessibility information for adults with learning disabilities, and those who may not be able to speak or read English. Specific considerations are included in statement 3.

### 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?

No difficulties have been identified.

### 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?

No potential adverse effects have been identified.

### 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?

N/A

Completed by lead technical analyst: Charlotte Fairclough

Date: 17 / 06 / 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

Date: 26 / 06 / 2019

### 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?

Stakeholders and the QSAC highlighted the importance of tailored information for adults with rheumatoid arthritis about planning a pregnancy, including preconception information, and emphasised this should be given on diagnosis and throughout the course of the disease. Statements 2, 3 and 5 highlight considerations for preconception information and/or tailored treatment for those adults planning a pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding.

### 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?

N/A

### 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?

N/A

### 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?

N/A

Completed by lead technical analyst: Charlotte Fairclough

Date: 15 / 10 / 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

Date: 21 /11 /2019

### 4. After NICE Guidance Executive amendments

### 4.1 Outline amendments agreed by Guidance Executive below, if applicable:

No relevant changes were agreed by Guidance Executive.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Charlotte Fairclough

Date: 10 / 12 / 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

Date: 10 / 12 / 2019

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