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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Neurological problems: Assessment, diagnosis and referral of neurological problems

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

1.0 Scope: before consultation (To be completed by the developer and submitted with the draft scope for 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?

People with some neurological problems may have disabilities that are covered by the Equality Act. This could impact on assessment tools and tests that can be carried out and will be considered by the guideline committee when evaluating the evidence and making recommendations.

People with communication problems may have difficulty describing the symptoms they are experiencing or responding to clinicians' questions as part of the assessment process. This group will include the following: non-English speakers, people with speech impediments, people with learning disabilities, and people with mental health issues such as schizophrenia. Because of their communication difficulties, these groups are at risk of misdiagnosis and mismanagement.

People with functional neurological disorders are also at risk of misdiagnosis and mismanagement. This group often receives poor treatment because symptoms are not recognised for what they are, and underlying psychological issues are not addressed. People with non-epileptic dissociative seizures, for example, have a high prevalence of severe trauma (for example childhood sexual abuse), yet often they are not offered appropriate psychotherapy.

A high proportion of people referred to neurologists have psychiatric disorders. It is

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difficult to identify organic neurological disease in people with psychiatric disorders, which makes the assessment process more complex.

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?

The groups referred to under 1.1 above will be included in the scope and searches. The Guideline Committee will consider the particular needs of these groups when formulating their recommendations.

Completed by developer: Bernard Higgins
Date: 26th November 2015

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Sarah Willett
Date: 3rd December 2015

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Equality report EIA analysis form

Comment [SD1]: Delete this form before posting on the website

[Title of guideline]

Product Code									
Title / Topic									
If equality issues identified, how many?									
What was the breakdown of identified equality issues, by protected, socioeconomic, or 'other' characteristic?									
Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Pregnancy maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio-economic	Other
How many issues had an impact on recommendations?									
If equality issues were identified, summarise what they were									
What was the breakdown of equality issues with an impact on recommendations?									

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Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Pregnancy maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio-economic	Other
<p>If equality issues had impacts on recommendations, summarise these impacts</p>									