

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Management of common infections: Scope

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

1.0 Checking for updates and scope: before scope 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 check for an update or during development of the draft scope, and, if so, what are they?

A number of patient groups were identified before consultation where equality issues need to be considered.

Age: The scope includes adults and children (excluding neonates, those in the first 4 weeks of life) who develop the common infections defined in the guideline scope. It is likely that there will need to be separate consideration of management according to age (young children and older adults) as current guidance often has, for example, different treatment thresholds and doses according to age ([Public Health England 2016](#); [NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries](#)).

Disability: The scope includes people who have disability. For some of the common conditions covered by this suite of guidance there is increased risk of developing such illnesses when people also have certain disabilities. For example, the risk of middle ear infection can be increased in people who also have a cleft palate or Down's syndrome ([NHS Choices](#)). This may require additional consideration of treatment choices in relation to management of recurrent illness and the risk of antimicrobial resistance.

Pregnancy and maternity: The scope includes the management of infections in women who are pregnant or breastfeeding (for example treatment of uncomplicated urinary tract infection during pregnancy). The management of infections in pregnancy or in women who are breastfeeding may need separate consideration (for

example choice of medicine, doses and course lengths to take account of risks to the unborn child or baby). This is in line with current practice ([British National Formulary](#); [Public Health England 2016](#); [NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries](#)).

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 scope covers all adults and children in both hospital and community settings with the illnesses listed in the guidance scope irrespective of gender, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status.

Neonates

The scope currently excludes neonates (children in the first 4 weeks of life) as NICE has published a guideline on [neonatal infection](#) with an accompanying [quality standard](#). Guideline users will be directed to these publications, where appropriate.

People with disorders of the immune system

The scope currently excludes the management of common illness when people have comorbid conditions that may require specialist management during infection (for example people with HIV and AIDS or cystic fibrosis). The scoping group agreed that this exclusion is legitimate as although the actual management may not be different for many of the common illnesses, for other conditions management may differ significantly. There were concerns that these issues could not be adequately covered in evidence reviews for a guideline with a whole population focus. It would also be difficult to recruit a representative committee that reflects a range of expertise in the care of all such comorbid illnesses.

Plans for dealing with the aspects listed in 1.1 include sensitivity to equality and diversity issues, although it is not considered that these groups would require additional reviews of the evidence. The committee may also make recommendations specifically in relation to particular population groups with the common infection. The review protocol will identify additional search terms to find evidence in relation to the specific groups.