

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (or encephalopathy)/chronic fatigue syndrome: diagnosis and management

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

3.0 Guideline development: before consultation (to be completed by the Developer before consultation on the draft guideline)

3.1 Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

The groups identified in the equalities impact assessment during scoping were considered through the development of the guideline, however there was no or limited evidence identified for these groups and it was agreed no separate recommendations for these groups were to be made. Childbirth has been noted as a potential event that could worsen ME/CFS symptoms.

3.2 Have any **other** potential equality issues (in addition to those identified during the scoping process) been identified, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

No

3.3 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the guideline for consultation, and, if so, where?

Consideration of equalities issues has been detailed in the committee's discussion of

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the evidence for the recommendations on principles of care, information and support and access to care.

3.4 Do the preliminary recommendations 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, there are specific recommendations on improving access to care for all people with ME/CFS.

3.5 Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No. The guideline has recommended the option of physical activity and exercise management for people with ME/CFS but only in specific circumstances and when developed and supervised by a specialist physiotherapist in ME/CFS.

3.6 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 or 3.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to advance equality?

Children and young people, and people with severe or very severe ME/CFS were identified in the scope as groups for special consideration and separate recommendations were made for these groups throughout the guideline.

Completed by Developer: Kate Kelley

Date: 11/09/2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

Date: 26/10/2020