

Equality impact assessment

Caesarean birth (CG132 update)

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 guideline already contained recommendations on woman-centred care which were not subject to this update, but the wording has been amended to include the fact that any information provided should be accessible, ideally with a choice of formats, to suit different women's needs.

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?

The committee were aware that there may be variation in access to maternal request CB, and that choice of mode of birth should be supported, appropriate to a woman's clinical needs and the decisions they have made about mode of birth, regardless of service configuration in their local area.

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

This concern is described in the committee's discussion of the evidence for the review question on the benefits and risks of caesarean birth (Evidence review A), but the committee noted it was already covered under the recommendations relating to maternal request CB.

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, the preliminary recommendations do not make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups.

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, there is not a potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability.

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?

Yes, amending the recommendations to ensure accessible communication fulfils this. The committee has also created 2 tables and 2 boxes to summarise the risks and benefits of caesarean birth compared to vaginal birth, to make this information available for women to discuss with their healthcare professionals, and to support them in their decision-making.

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

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