

Equality and Health Inequality Assessment template for methods and process changes

1. Name of the policy, project, or programme

NICE-wide Topic Prioritisation

2. Directorate or team

Clinical Directorate (process covers all guidance teams)

3. Details of the person responsible for the EHIA (EHIA Owner)

Kay Nolan, Head of Prioritisation and Surveillance, Clinical Directorate

Toni Tan, Senior Technical Adviser, Clinical Directorate

4. Aims, purpose and outcomes

What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes?

The aim of the manual update is to support improvements to our organisation wide approach to Topic Prioritisation. The approach determines whether NICE develops guidance on specific topics to ensure guidance production is in priority areas.

How does this fit in with the objectives of NICE?

This work supports the strategic objective to ensure relevancy by focusing guidance activity on what matters most to the health and care system – it explicitly considers the impact on the system in the decision-making framework.

How does it relate to other NICE policies or activity?

The update will replace the existing Manual for NICE-wide Topic Prioritisation.

Who will benefit from it?

Users of our guidance will benefit from a unified transparent approach to topic selection and prioritisation across NICE. This will mean there is consistency in the approach to prioritisation of guidance activity, a clear unified front door for potential

topics to enter NICE, a clear clarification process and publication of decisions – to that end our stakeholders can hold us to account on our selection of topics against NICE’s strategic aims.

What are the main activities involved in implementation?

Implementation steps will adapting operational processes and templates to support the effective implementation of the updated approach to prioritisation.

5. Engagement and involvement

This EHIA has been developed by the team. It will be consulted on as part of the consultation on the updated NICE-wide Topic Prioritisation Manual.

6. Other evidence and information considered

A consultation on the updated approach will be undertaken with all stakeholders to seek their views on the proposals. As part of this consultation process, we will seek views on whether any of the proposals raise equalities or health inequality issues.

7. Impact and mitigation

Impact and mitigation for protected characteristics or wider determinants of health

Protected characteristic or wider determinant of health	Impact	Mitigation
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age groups covered by NICE guidance products vary, often dependent on the epidemiology of the condition, marketing authorisation and sometimes available evidence on which to base guidance. Some populations may be indirectly disadvantaged because they are not covered within NICE guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes from Prioritisation Board will be published, and a clarification process embedded so that stakeholders can highlight where NICE may not have fully considered the age equality dimensions of any particular topic. Prioritisation board decisions and records of equality considerations will be recorded and audited to ensure consistency and

		<p>to identify any unconscious biases of the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation Board equality considerations will be available for guidance developers to draw upon to embed consideration of equalities when work commences. • A negative Prioritisation Board decision for a topic can inform the development of research recommendations that may address inequality dimensions of the topic or evidence base.
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled people are likely to be the largest group affected by prioritisation of topics for NICE guidance. Under the Equality Act 2010, disabilities include progressive conditions such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, or HIV. The aim of the prioritisation approach is to ensure that NICE focuses on what is important to the Health and Care system and as such this should support the prioritisation of topics that explore clinically effective approaches across the health and care system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes from Prioritisation Board will be published, and a clarification process embedded so that stakeholders can highlight where NICE may not have fully considered the disability equality dimensions of any particular topic • Prioritisation board decisions and records of equality considerations will be recorded and audited to ensure consistency and to identify any unconscious biases of the Board. • Prioritisation board equality considerations will be available for guidance developers to draw upon to embed consideration of equalities when work commences
Race or ethnicity	None identified	N/A
Gender reassignment	None identified	N/A

Marriage and civil partnership	None identified	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	None identified	N/A
Religion and belief	None identified	N/A
Sex	None identified	N/A
Sexual orientation	None identified	N/A
Socioeconomic status	See comments across all equality strands	See comments across all equality strands
Inclusion health and vulnerable groups	See comments across all equality strands	See comments across all equality strands
Comments across all equality strands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential for NICE guidance on a particular topic to impact on health inequalities is an explicit criterion in the proposed prioritisation framework. As such it is expected that all topics that the Prioritisation Board discuss will have an assessment of the potential for NICE guidance to introduce, reduce or increase health inequalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NICE guidance development processes themselves give explicit consideration to equality and health inequality and as such early identification of potential issues (positive or negative) at Prioritisation/Topic Selection should enhance opportunities for addressing these if appropriate during development. Prioritisation board equality considerations will be available for guidance developers to draw upon to embed consideration of equalities when work commences Prioritisation board decisions and records of equality considerations will be recorded and audited to ensure consistency and to identify any unconscious biases of the Board.

8. EHIA sign off

EHIA Owner: Kay Nolan, Head of Prioritisation and Surveillance, Clinical Directorate

Including NICE technology appraisal recommendations into NICE guidelines EHIA

Date: 20th April 2026