

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE quality standards

Equality impact assessment

Spondyloarthritis

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

1. TOPIC ENGAGEMENT STAGE

1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during this stage of the development process?

No equality issues have been identified at this stage. However, a potential issue was identified during the development of the guideline:

- Recognition of axial spondyloarthritis in women. Women with axial symptoms are thought to be underdiagnosed, as ankylosing spondylitis has historically been seen as a predominantly male disease.

This potential issue will be considered for relevance during the development of the quality standard.

1.2 Have any population groups, treatments or settings been excluded from coverage by the quality standard at this stage in the process. Are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

It is anticipated that the quality standard will not cover:

- Children and young people under the age of 16.
- Signs, symptoms and referral for people with an existing diagnosis of psoriasis

The quality standard will focus on the age groups in the population affected by spondyloarthritis. A published quality standard ([QS40](#)) already covers assessing and managing psoriasis.

Completed by lead technical analyst Paul Daly

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead Nick Baillie

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