

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

### GUIDELINES EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM RECOMMENDATIONS

As outlined in the guidelines manual NICE has a duty to take reasonable action to avoid unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunities. The purpose of this form is to document that equalities issues have been considered in the recommendations of a clinical guideline.

Taking into account **each** of the equality characteristics below the form needs:

- To confirm that equality issues identified in the scope have been addressed in the evidence reviews or other evidence underpinning the recommendations
- To ensure the recommendations do not discriminate against any of the equality groups
- To highlight areas where recommendations may promote equality.

This form is completed by the National Collaborating Centre and the Guideline Development Group **for each guideline** before consultation, and amended following consultation to incorporate any additional points or issues raised by stakeholders.

The final version is submitted with the final guideline, signed by the NCC Director and the Guideline Development Group (GDG) Chair, to be countersigned by the GRP chair and the the guideline lead from the Centre for Clinical Practice.

<b>EQUALITY CHARACTERISTICS</b>
<p><b>Sex/gender</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women</li> <li>• Men</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ethnicity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian or Asian British</li> <li>• Black or black British</li> <li>• People of mixed race</li> <li>• Irish</li> <li>• White British</li> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• Other minority ethnic groups not listed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensory</li> <li>• Learning disability</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• Cognitive</li> <li>• Mobility</li> <li>• Other impairment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Age<sup>1</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older people</li> <li>• Children and young people</li> <li>• Young adults</li> </ul> <p><sup>1</sup> Definitions of age groups may vary according to policy or other context.</p>
<p><b>Sexual orientation &amp; gender identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesbians</li> <li>• Gay men</li> <li>• Bisexual people</li> <li>• Transgender people</li> </ul>
<p><b>Religion and belief</b></p>
<p><b>Socio-economic status</b></p> <p>Depending on policy or other context, this may cover factors such as social exclusion and deprivation associated with geographical areas (e.g. the Spearhead Group of local authorities and PCTs, neighbourhood renewal fund areas etc) or inequalities or variations associated with other geographical distinctions (e.g. the North/South divide, urban versus rural).</p>
<p><b>Other categories<sup>2</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gypsy travellers</li> <li>• Refugees and asylum seekers</li> <li>• Migrant workers</li> <li>• Looked after children</li> <li>• Homeless people</li> </ul> <p><sup>2</sup> This list is illustrative rather than comprehensive.</p>

## **GUIDELINES EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM: RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Guideline title: Autism in Adults**

#### **1. Have the equality areas identified in the scope as needing attention been addressed in the guideline?**

Please confirm whether

- the evidence reviews addressed the areas that had been identified in the scope as needing specific attention with regard to equalities issues.

*Please note this also applies to consensus work in or outside the GDG*

- the development group has considered these areas in their discussions

The scope identified that there is a higher prevalence of ASC in males than females and it was felt that this may result in the possibility that female population maybe overlooked. It was also considered that adults with ASC who do not have family members support, may also be overlooked in the population.

The GDG have examined evidence on both groups and have considered the needs of these groups in their discussions and the development of the recommendations. Throughout the whole guideline the GDG have been mindful that services should be addressing the needs of these groups and some recommendations specifically address this area, for example, recommendation 1.8.3 in the NICE guideline emphasises the importance of developing local care pathways to promote access to all groups including women, homeless people and other groups that are at risk of not accessing services.

#### **2. Do any recommendations make it impossible or unreasonably difficult in practice for a specific group to access a test or intervention?**

For example:

- Does access to the intervention depend on membership of a specific group?
- Does using a particular test discriminate unlawfully against a group?
- Do people with disabilities find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to receive an intervention?

The guideline does not cover children of 17 years old or younger, as their needs are being covered in the guideline 'Autism - management of autism in children and young people', which is currently in development.

We have considered carefully the needs of people with learning difficulties and have developed a number of recommendation specifically concerned with assessment to ensure that such individual do not have limitations on their access to care and treatment.

### **3. Do the recommendations promote equality?**

Please state if the recommendations are formulated so as to promote equalities, for example by making access more likely for certain groups, or by tailoring the intervention to specific groups?

Yes the recommendations do promote equality. In particular the following issues are covered within the recommendations (example recommendation numbers from the NICE guideline are in brackets):

- promoting engagement in services for those who may have difficulty doing so, for example, women, homeless people and adults with learning disabilities (eg, 1.8.3)
- promoting access to services for all groups and providing support to help people engage in activities (eg, 1.8.1)
- providing information to promote informed shared decision making (eg, 1.8.4)
- addressing and aiming to minimise victimisation of adults with autism (eg, 1.4.9).