

GUIDELINES EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM: RECOMMENDATIONS

Guideline Title: Autism in children and young people

1. Have the equality areas identified in the scope as needing attention been addresses 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 several equalities issues, including that certain groups might be disadvantaged with regards to accessing services, such as immigrant groups and looked after children.

The systematic review did not identify any evidence for immigrant groups and looked after children, and therefore the GDG were unable to make recommendations relating to these groups.

The scope also identified that the needs of children and young people on the autistic spectrum with coexisting conditions, who were likely to have complex support needs, would need to be considered.

The GDG have examined evidence for coexisting conditions and a chapter in the full guideline was dedicated to this topic. In particular, the GDG make recommendations under section 1.7 of the NICE Guideline to manage the coexisting conditions.

2. Do any recommendations make it impossible or unreasonably difficult in practice for a specific group to access a test of 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 adults, as their needs are covered in the guideline 'Autism in Adults'.

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

EQUALITY CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Sex/gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women • Men
<p>Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian or Asian British • Black or black British • People of mixed race • Irish • White British • Chinese • Other minority ethnic groups not listed
<p>Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory • Learning disability • Mental health • Cognitive • Mobility • Other impairment
<p>Age¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people • Children and young people • Young adults <p>^{1D}Definitions of age groups may vary according to policy or other context</p>
<p>Sexual orientation & gender identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesbians • Gay men • Bisexual people • Transgender people
<p>Religion and belief</p>
<p>Socio-economic status</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>Other categories²</p> <p>Gypsy travellers Refugees and asylum seekers Migrant workers Looked after children Homeless people</p> <p>²This list is illustrative rather than comprehensive</p>

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. For example, the following issues are covered within the recommendations (recommendation numbers are in brackets):

- Ensure that all children and young people with autism have full access to health and social care services, including mental health services, regardless of their intellectual ability or any coexisting diagnosis (1.1.1)
- Local autism teams should provide (or organise) the interventions and care recommended in this guideline for children and young people with autism who have particular needs, including:
 - looked-after children and young people
 - those from immigrant groups
 - those with regression in skills
 - those with coexisting conditions such as:
 - severe visual and hearing impairments
 - other medical problems including epilepsy or sleep and elimination problems
 - motor disorders including cerebral palsy
 - intellectual disability
 - severe communication impairment, including lack of spoken language, or complex language disorders
 - mental health problems (1.1.5).

Signed:

