

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Safe prescribing and withdrawal management of prescribed drugs associated with dependence

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

1.0 Checking for updates and scope: before scope consultation (to be completed by the Developer and submitted with the draft scope for consultation)

1.1 Is the proposed primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration? No.
If so, what is it and what action might be taken by NICE or the developer to meet this need? (For example, adjustments to committee processes, additional forms of consultation.)

N/A

1.2 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the check for an update or during development of the draft scope, and, if so, what are they?

The following groups were identified as important to consider:

- People with cognitive impairment.
- People with current or past history of substance misuse.
- People with current or past mental health diagnoses.
- People prescribed these medicines in secure settings (prisons and immigration removal centres).
- Black and minority ethnic groups: there is potential for communication challenges arising from possible language barriers.
- People with multimorbidity and frailty
- The homeless
- People with learning disabilities

These groups have been demonstrated to be more vulnerable to dependence on prescribed medicines and are more likely to be prescribed these medicines,

1.3 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

It is not expected that guidance should differ for these groups as safe prescribing and management principles should remain the same.

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Date: 12/08/19

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Kay Nolan

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