

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Otitis media with effusion in under 12s

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

2.0 Checking for updates and scope: after consultation (to be completed by the Developer and submitted with the revised scope)

2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during consultation, and, if so, what are they?

One stakeholder raised the issue about unequal access to and variable waiting times to grommet operations across the country. This has been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, with some ENT services not being able to offer any grommet operations during the pandemic.

After consultation, it was noted at scope sign-off that some children at risk of having OME misinterpreted can be at higher risk of having OME in the first place through craniofacial abnormalities.

2.2 Have any changes to the scope been made as a result of consultation to highlight potential equality issues?

No. The issue mentioned in box 2.1 was discussed and acknowledged, however, it was not thought to be an equalities issue as such but an issue of service delivery pressures. The guideline committee will look at evidence on different options for management of OME, including various non-surgical options such as hearing aids to base the recommendations on the best management strategies, however, the guideline will not be able to dictate service delivery arrangements for these.

2.3 Have any of the changes made led to a change in the primary focus of the guideline which would require consideration of a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration?

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)

Not applicable.

Updated by Developer: Maija Kallioinen

Date: 06.12.2021

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Simon Ellis

Date: 08.12.2021