

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## NICE guidelines

### Equality impact assessment

#### **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in over 16s: diagnosis and management (update)**

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 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?

During scoping, socioeconomic status was identified as an equality issue which specifically needed to be tackled. There is a higher prevalence of respiratory diseases in this group due to poorer living conditions and a higher rates of smoking. People living in these areas also have a lower life expectancy than the general population, and it was identified during scoping that COPD is responsible for 8% of this difference in men and for 12% of this difference in women. The chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) guideline will cover all adults with COPD.

Other equality issues identified were: difficulties speaking or reading English, homelessness, serious mental illness, dementia, or learning disabilities. Good outcomes are known to be more difficult to achieve in these specific groups.

1.2 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? For example, if population groups, treatments or settings are excluded from the scope, are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

Outcomes are known to be more difficult to achieve in these specific identified

groups, and therefore specific recommendations in these groups may need to be made to address this. There are no exclusions listed in the guideline.

Completed by Developer Rachel O'Mahony, Technical Adviser

Date 07.02.2017

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Sharon Summers-Ma, Guideline Lead

Date 10.02.2017

**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 commented that there is inherent age and sex discrimination in the current diagnostic criterion of  $FEV1/FVC < 0.7$  to define airflow obstruction. They suggested (based on a BMJ article, BMJ 2015; 351: h3021). The article suggests that the current diagnostic criterion of  $FEV1/FVC < 0.7$  misses true airflow obstruction in young women and over diagnoses it in older men.

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

No changes have been made. The evidence that the stakeholder provided was not considered sufficient enough to change the current recommendation. However, consideration will be given to any potential inequalities by the guideline committee, during their discussions on diagnosis.

2.3 Is the primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific disability-related communication need?

If so, is an alternative version of the 'information for the public' recommended?

If so, which alternative version is recommended?

The alternative versions available are:

- large font or audio versions for a population with sight loss
- British Sign Language videos for a population deaf from birth
- 'Easy read' versions for people with learning disabilities or cognitive impairment.

No

Updated by Developer

Rachel O'Mahony, Technical Adviser

Date

29.03.2017

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead

Simon Ellis, Guideline Lead

Date

20.04.2017