

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Depression in children and young people: identification and management

#### 4.0 Final guideline (to be completed by the Developer before GE consideration of final guideline)

4.1 Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

The stakeholder comments on this topic focused on the following points that were not covered by the consultation recommendations:

- No mention of comorbidities, disabilities or neurodevelopmental disorders and their effects on treatment choice and effectiveness,
- No mention of language and learning difficulties that may affect communication, for example in deaf children and young people whose first language is British Sign Language.

The committee agreed that this was an omission on their part and that the full assessment of needs underlying the choice of psychological therapies should also take into account comorbidities, neurodevelopmental disorders, communication abilities (language, sensory impairment) and learning disabilities. These factors were added to the assessment of needs recommendation for both mild and moderate to severe depression.

Children and young people with learning disabilities and depression are covered by this guideline, but how these learning disabilities and challenging behaviour moderate the effect of various interventions are covered by the NICE guideline on [mental health problems in people with learning disabilities, NG54](#). The committee included a cross reference to NG54 in both sections on mild and moderate to severe depression because it has sections on psychological therapies for people with learning disabilities and specific adaptations to the therapies that may be required to facilitate their use in these people. The committee's discussion of these points has been added to the "benefits and harms section" of the "committee's discussion of the evidence in the evidence review". Neurodevelopmental disorders were already covered in the committee's discussion of equalities issues in the "other factors the committee took into account" section of the discussion and had been included as

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suggested subgroup analyses in the research recommendations. No changes were made to these sections in relation to neurodevelopmental disorders.

4.2 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No, the changes in the recommendation on the full assessment of needs and the addition of a cross reference to NG54 should improve access to suitable treatment for children and young people with comorbidities, neurodevelopmental disorders, communication abilities (language, sensory impairment) or learning disabilities.

4.3 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

No, for the same reason as for 4.2.

4.4 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to services identified in questions 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

No, for the same reason as for 4.2.

4.5 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final guideline, and, if so, where?

This has been covered in detail in the "other factors the committee took into account" section of the "committee's discussion of the evidence" in the evidence review.

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Date: 18 March 2019

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nichole Taske

Date: 13 June 2019