

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Cannabis-based medicinal products

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

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?

Two equality issues were raised by stakeholders during draft guideline consultation. One stakeholder raised that gender should be considered within equality impact assessment documents as for example women are three times more likely to receive a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis than men. The health economic model did incorporate gender difference in the estimate of background mortality and QALYs. It should also be noted that patients are only allowed Sativex when all other treatment options have been considered, before they undergo invasive intervention/ surgery. They are not eligible to receive Sativex at the point of initial diagnosis. Another stakeholder highlighted that the committee make it clearer what the safety of these medications are in pregnancy and when breast feeding. These issues were discussed by the committee with extra consideration provided in the recommendation rationale and impact sections in the final guideline.

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?

There are no recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group within each population group to access cannabis based medicinal products compared to other groups.

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?

Amendments made to the recommendations after consultation have not resulted in any adverse impact on people with disabilities accessing these products.

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 question 4.2, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

There are no recommendations or explanations that could be made to remove or alleviate barriers to or access to services.

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

The Committee's consideration of equality issues is detailed in the committee discussion sections of the evidence reviews and in the recommendation rationale and impact sections in the final guideline.

Updated by Developer: Susan Spiers

Date: 23.09.19

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

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