

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Thyroid disease: assessment 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?

Stakeholders were concerned that diagnosis in women may be missed or delayed as symptoms of thyroid disease may be attributed to menopause. The committee agreed to add the following recommendation to the guideline “Be aware that in menopausal women symptoms of thyroid dysfunction may be mistaken for menopause”.

Concern was also raised about older people being told they don’t need treatment because of their age. None of the recommendations are believed to discriminate against people because of their age. The guideline makes a recommendation for a trial of levothyroxine for a subgroup of people with subclinical hypothyroidism who are under 65. This recommendation was based on the age cut-offs used in the evidence. The committee agreed that people who are over 65 should not be offered the same trial because there was less likely to be an improvement in symptoms and the potential for harms from suppressing TSH (such as atrial fibrillation) is greater.

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?

Recommendations have changed after consultation. However, no changes to recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with 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?

No

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?

New recommendation mentioned in 4.1 intends to address this.

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

Consideration of choice of treatment for thyrotoxicosis when pregnant or if a pregnancy is planned is included in evidence review A and evidence reviews I, J, K and L.

Thyroid disease in pregnancy was excluded because the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are currently producing guidance in this area. This is still awaiting publication and the NICE surveillance team has been made aware of this.

Completed by Developer:

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Date:

30 August 2019

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Date:

18 October 2019