

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Preterm labour and birth

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?

Stakeholders identified that health inequalities related to ethnicity and social deprivation may impact on outcomes for babies born preterm in the UK, and that this should be reflected in the guideline using the latest MBRRACE data.

The committee therefore agreed to include a new recommendation in the guideline, similar to that recently included in the NICE guidelines on antenatal care, postnatal care and inducing labour, to highlight that the stillbirth rate (in all births, not just preterm) is higher in women from certain ethnic groups and from the most deprived areas, and that these women may need closer monitoring and additional support.

Stakeholders also commented on the use of the terms 'woman' or women' throughout the guideline. NICE is in the process of developing a revised policy on the use of gender-specific terms and but this policy has not yet been agreed and so changes have not been made to this guideline, but will be implemented later in 2022.

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?

The changes to the recommendations have not made it more difficult for a specific group to access services 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?

The changes to the recommendations do not have the potential to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities.

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?

The committee have included a new recommendation to ensure that women from certain ethnic groups or the most disadvantaged backgrounds are offered closer monitoring and additional support.

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

The additional recommendation that has been added as described in 4.1 has not been described elsewhere in the guideline, as the information and support section of the guideline was not included in the scope of this update.

Updated by Developer: Hilary Eadon

Date: 9 May 2022

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

Date: 20 May 2022