

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Endometriosis: diagnosis and management of endometriosis

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 following equalities issues were considered at the pre-consultation stage and addressed (see previous form):

- Geographical inequalities, young women (aged 17 and under) and English as a second language and learning disabilities, and other religious and ethnic equality issues.

At consultation stakeholders identified the following further issues:

- It was highlighted that in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups there are cultural barriers that may prevent women from talking about or accessing services that provide care for women with endometriosis.
- It was also identified that the long-term nature of the condition may have a psychological and psychosexual impact and that this was not yet sufficiently addressed in the guideline.
- Geographical inequalities specifically relating to access to services and professionals (in particular access to specialist nurses) was also highlighted as an issue that should be addressed.
- An equality issue related to women who decided not to have children was noted.
- Equalities related to access to fertility treatments was also raised as an issue

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

that was not sufficiently addressed by the guideline.

These points were considered by the Committee and the following changes were made based on this feedback:

- 'Cultural background' was added to a recommendation related to what to take into account when 'assessing individual information and support needs'.
- A new recommendation was drafted that highlights the long-term nature of the condition. This reads 'Be aware that endometriosis can be a long-term condition and can have a significant physical, sexual, psychological and social impact. Women may have complex needs and require long-term support.'
- To address geographical inequalities related to access to services or professionals, in particular access to nurses who have specific knowledge and training in the care for women with endometriosis, we strengthened the recommendation related to the staff composition in 'gynaecology service for women with endometriosis'. We changed 'a gynaecology nurse with an interest in endometriosis' to 'gynaecologist specialist nurse with expertise in endometriosis' to promote wider access to specialist nursing care for women with endometriosis.
- To address any possible discrimination related to women who do not want to have children the following sentence was removed from the introduction: 'Delaying childbearing, either by choice or because of subfertility, may be a risk factor for endometriosis.'
- To address the issue related to access to fertility services we have added further detail related to the overlap with the NICE guideline on fertility problems (CG156) to the introduction and discussion sections of the full guideline. We also highlighted the limitations that investigating fertility as an 'outcome' brings with it, i.e. not including assistive reproductive methods. Furthermore, stakeholder comments related to this issue have been highlighted to NICE so that they can be considered during future surveillance reviews of published guidelines.

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, there are no such recommendations.

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, there is no potential for this.

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 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

- 'Cultural background' was added to a recommendation related to what to take into account when 'assessing individual information and support needs' to promote equality of access to services in the BAME group.
- We changed 'a gynaecology nurse with an interest in endometriosis' to 'gynaecologist specialist nurse with expertise in endometriosis' to promote wider geographical access to specialist nursing care for women with endometriosis.

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

As outlined above the considerations were addressed both in the short and the full guideline, either directly by revising or drafting new recommendations or by providing further detail to relevant sections in the full guideline (e.g. related to fertility).

Updated by Developer:

Katharina Dworzynski, Guideline lead

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

Date: 14th August 2017