

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Hearing Loss (adult onset): Assessment and management

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

1.0 Scope: before consultation (To be completed by the developer and submitted with the draft scope for consultation)

1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the draft scope, before consultation, and, if so, what are they?

Groups identified for special consideration:

- People with speech/communication difficulties, including people for whom English is not their first language. This group may find it more difficult to access services and take part in language-dependent hearing tests.
- Deaf-blind people. There are specific management issues for this population.
- People with disabilities including:
 - People with dementia. This group is at high risk of hearing loss because of age, diagnosis is more difficult, and there are specific management and treatment adherence issues.
 - People with learning disabilities. This group is at a higher risk of hearing loss and there are specific management issues.
 - People with physical disabilities. There are specific management issues for this population.

1.2 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? For example, if population groups, treatments or settings are excluded from the scope, are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

The above groups have been identified as subgroups for the guideline. Subgroup analysis will be undertaken when reviewing the evidence and specific recommendations may be made by the guideline committee.

It is acknowledged that patients with tinnitus and vertigo can present with hearing loss. People with hearing loss **and** tinnitus and/or vertigo are included within the scope of this guideline, but this guideline will only make recommendations on the assessment and management of hearing loss.

Completed by Developer: Gill Ritchie

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Christine Carson

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