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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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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.

2.0 Scope: after consultation (To be completed by the developer and submitted with the final scope)

2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during consultation, and, if so, what are they?

Feedback from stakeholders identified the following equalities issues:

- People with neurodegenerative diseases will be included within the people with physical disabilities category.
- People with sight loss and hearing loss will also be included within the deaf-blind people category, in recognition of the fact that not everyone will have complete deafness or sight loss.
- People with severe and profound hearing loss will be included under the people with disabilities heading as they may face additional management issues if the nature of their hearing loss is such that it can be considered a disability.

2.2 Have any changes to the scope been made as a result of consultation to highlight

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potential equality issues?

Question 1.4 on How can hearing loss be identified in people with mild cognitive impairment or dementia? has been broadened to encompass other population groups, and modified to clarify that the key issue is around awareness of when to suspect hearing loss, rather than how to identify it. The question is now 'In whom should hearing loss be suspected? For example people with dementia, mild cognitive impairment and learning difficulties'. This is not an exhaustive list, and other population groups will be included if relevant.

2.3 Is the primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific disability-related communication need?

If so, is an alternative version of the 'Information for the Public' document recommended?

If so, which alternative version is recommended?

The alternative versions available are:

- large font or audio versions for a population with sight loss;
- British Sign Language videos for a population who are deaf from birth;
- 'Easy read' versions for people with learning disabilities or cognitive impairment.

Yes, the focus of the guideline is people with hearing loss, which is a specific disability-related communication need.

- Braille format may need to be considered for people with sight loss and hearing loss/deaf-blind people.
- Subtitles may be required if any videos are produced, but BSL videos are not necessary because the guideline does not cover this population.
- People with learning disabilities and cognitive impairment have been identified as a focus within this guideline, so 'easy read' versions may be required.

Updated by Developer Gill Ritchie

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead Christine Carson

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