

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE CENTRE for PUBLIC HEALTH Equality impact assessment PH52 needle and syringe programmes (update)

NICE has a duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. The purpose of this form is to document the consideration of equality issues at each stage of the guidance production process. This equality impact assessment is designed to support compliance with NICE's obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

Table 1 below lists the protected characteristics and other equality factors NICE needs to consider, i.e. not just population groups sharing the 'protected characteristics' defined in the Equality Act but also those affected by health inequalities associated with socioeconomic factors or other forms of disadvantage. The table does not attempt to provide further interpretation of the protected characteristics.

This form should be initiated during scoping for the guidance, revised after consultation and finalised before guidance is published. It will be signed off by NICE at the same time as the guidance, and published on the NICE website with the final guidance. The form is used to:

- record any equality issues raised in connection with the guidance by anybody involved
- demonstrate that all equality issues, both old and new, have been given due consideration, by explaining what impact they have had on recommendations, or if there is no impact, why this is.
- highlight areas where the guidance should advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations
- ensure that the guidance will not discriminate against any of the equality groups.

Table 1: NICE equality groups

Protected Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age• Disability• Gender reassignment• Pregnancy and maternity• Race• Religion or belief• Sex or Sexual orientation• Marriage and civil partnership (protected only in respect of need to eliminate unlawful discrimination)
Additional characteristics to be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socioeconomic status <p>Depending on policy or other context, this may cover factors such as social exclusion and deprivation associated with geographical areas, or inequalities or variation associated with other geographical distinctions (for example, the North-South divide; urban versus rural).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other <p>Other groups in the population experience poor health because of circumstances often affected by, but going beyond, sharing a protected characteristic or socioeconomic status. Whether such groups can be identified depends on the guidance topic and the evidence. The following are examples of groups that may be covered in NICE guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refugees and asylum seekers• Migrant workers• Look-after children• Homeless people.

1. Scoping

1. Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process (development of the scope or discussion at the Committee meeting), and, if so, what are they?

Not applicable: this was an update of existing guidance (PH18) and used the same scope, so a new scope was not developed.

2. What is the preliminary view as to what extent these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? (If there are exclusions listed in the scope (for example, populations, treatments or settings), are these justified?)

Not applicable: see above

3. Has any change to the scope (such as additional issues raised during the Committee meeting) been agreed to highlight potential equality issues?

Not applicable: see above

4. Are there any language or communication needs

Not applicable: see above

2. Consultation document

1. Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

This is not applicable since there was no new scope for the guidance update.

2. Have any other potential equality issues been raised in the draft Guidance, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed these?

The equality impact assessment and stakeholder consultation on the draft guidance raised the following issues which were considered by the committee.

Race: No reference to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in the draft guidance.

Disability: No reference to 'disability' in the guidance;

Sexual orientation: No reference to sexual orientation other than Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) or gender identity; A greater need to identify the specific needs of MSM (as a high risk group)

Age: No reference to older people in the guidance

Religion/belief: No reference to Religion/Belief in recommendations

Socio economic status: No reference to Socio Economic Status (SES)

Recommendation 1 now includes reference to "consultation with Young People Who Inject Drugs (YPWID)

Recommendation 2 now makes reference to 'Other groups' such as BME

Recommendation 5 now makes reference to specialist domestic and sexual violence services including services assisting girls and women to exit sex work

Recommendation 5 now makes reference to a considered comprehensive assessment that considers all factors including 'cultural background,

Recommendation 5 now makes reference to the Consideration of mental health (Young people specifically)

Recommendation 5 now makes reference to 'Child and Adult Mental Health

Services'

Overall the issues identified were discussed by the committee and not felt to be equality issues per se but their inclusion makes it more obvious that this guidance is for all people who inject drugs.

3. Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access any recommended services compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

No. The issues identified were felt to be issues of clarity rather than accessibility or equality. The guidance is quite clear that it is about all people who inject drugs (as defined by the [scope](#))

4. Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access identified in question 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to promote equality?

As outlined this guidance focuses on all people who inject drugs. This population is diverse and the equality assessment tool highlighted the need to make this more specific. The committee highlighted this and have subsequently made suggested changes in the final guidance document to reflect this.

5. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the consultation document, and, if so, where?

Consideration 4.16 highlights some of the equality issues discussed by the committee. As outlined this guidance focuses on all people who inject drugs. This population is diverse and the equality assessment tool highlighted the need to make this more specific. These issue were not highlighted in the consultation document but have subsequently been picked up as part of the stakeholder consultation and

equality impact assessment process.

3. Final Public Health Guidance document

1. Have any potential equality issues raised in section 2 been addressed by the Committee and if so, how?

Some slight changes and additions to recommendations have been made (see section 2 box 2).

The guidance makes reference to some of the issues considered and discussed in the development of the guidance such as specific groups (section 4 considerations; section 5 research recommendations) and also the lack of research regarding specific groups, service use and increasing effective use.

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

No

3. If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access any recommended services compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

The recommendations have been modified (see section 2 box 2 of this document) to address the identified issues. Although some specific items such as *mentioning a group more specifically* was identified as a 'potential issue' the committee felt that it was clear that the focus of the guidance was on people who inject drugs and that this population was wide and diverse. The amendments made were more to make this clearer and the need to implement the guidance in observance of the Equality Act 2010 has been subsequently clarified in section 13 p.47.

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 identified in questions 2 and 3, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to promote equality?

The recommendations have been modified (see section 2 box 2 of this document) to address the identified issues. Although some specific items such as mentioning a group more specifically was identified as a 'potential issue' the committee felt that it was clear that the focus of the guidance was on people who inject drugs (as defined in the scope) and that this population was wide and diverse. The amendments made were more to make this clearer and the need to implement the guidance in observance of the Equality Act 2010 has been subsequently clarified in section 13 p.47

5. Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final Public Health Guidance document, and, if so, where?

Yes. As outlined in section 2 box 2 of this document changes to the recommendations to address 'issues' identified as part of the equality impact assessment. Reference to the lack of evidence regarding specific groups is outlined in section 4: consideration. The guidance also makes reference to the need for more research in these areas in Section 5: recommendations for research.

Approved by Centre or Programme Director:

Date: [xx/xx/year]