

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND
CARE EXCELLENCE**

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE

QUALITY STANDARDS

Quality standard topic: Bladder cancer

Output: Equality analysis form – Topic overview

Introduction

As outlined in the [Quality Standards process guide](http://www.nice.org.uk) (available from www.nice.org.uk), NICE has a duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people from different groups. The purpose of this form is to document the consideration of equality issues in each stage of the development process before reaching the final output that will be approved by the NICE Guidance Executive. This equality analysis is designed to support compliance with NICE's obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

Table 1 lists the equality 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 is because it is likely to be simpler, and more efficient, to use the evidence underpinning the quality standard to define population groups within the broad protected characteristic categories rather than to start with possibly unsuitable checklists created for other purposes, such as social surveys or HR monitoring tools.

The form should be used to:

- confirm that equality issues have been considered and identify any relevant to the topic
- ensure that the quality standards outputs do not discriminate against any of the equality groups
- highlight planned action relevant to equality
- highlight areas where quality standards may advance equality of opportunity.

This form is completed by the NICE quality standards internal team at each stage within the development process:

- Topic overview (to elicit additional comments as part of active stakeholder engagement)
- Quality Standards Advisory Committee – meeting 1
- Quality Standards Advisory Committee – meeting 2

Table 1

| |
|---|
| Protected characteristics |
| Age |
| Disability |
| Gender reassignment |
| Pregnancy and maternity |
| Race |
| Religion or belief |
| Sex |
| Sexual orientation |
| Other characteristics |
| Socio-economic status Depending on policy or other context, this may cover factors such as social exclusion and deprivation associated with geographical areas or inequalities or variations associated with other geographical distinctions (e.g. the North/South divide, urban versus rural). |
| Marital status (including civil partnership) |

Other categories

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 are identifiable depends on the guidance topic and the evidence. The following are examples of groups covered in NICE guidance:

- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Migrant workers
- Looked after children
- Homeless people.

Quality standards equality analysis

Stage: Topic overview

Topic: Bladder cancer

1. Have any equality issues impacting upon equality groups been identified during this stage of the development process?

- Please state briefly any relevant equality issues identified and the plans to tackle them during development.

During development of [NICE guideline 2 \(NG2\)](#), which is the primary development source for the quality standard, various equality issues were considered relating to care of people with bladder cancer. These were addressed by guideline recommendations where possible, and will be considered where applicable during development of the quality standard:

- Women may potentially receive less information and support on the impact of bladder cancer and its treatment on sexual function. The quality standard will promote equality across all groups, and the related [quality standard for patient experience in adult NHS services](#) promotes equality in the provision of information for all groups.
- People from BME groups may be less likely to access advice on palliative care. This will be considered by the quality standards advisory committee (QSAC) during development of the quality standard, which will promote equality across all groups.
- Cystectomy may not be an option for patients with poor manual dexterity, visual impairment or diminished mental capacity. It is also highlighted that elderly patients or those with significant co-morbidity may not be offered cystectomy or any alternative radical treatment. The quality standard will be developed in accordance with the recommendations set out in [NG2](#), which has taken these issues into account, and the QSAC will take this into account when considering the equality impact of quality statements.
- Certain types of chemotherapy might not be suitable for people with a particular disability or comorbidity. The quality standard will be developed in accordance with the recommendations set out in [NG2](#), which has taken these issues into account, and the QSAC will take this into account when considering the equality impact of quality statements.
- It is considered that older adults may be less likely to be offered radiotherapy and nerve blocks than younger people. The quality standard will promote equality across all groups.

It is also recognised that the prevalence of smoking is higher in more deprived groups, and smoking may be a risk factor for recurrence of bladder cancer. Quality standard 43 has been published on [Smoking cessation - supporting people to stop smoking](#), which covers the identification and referral of those who smoke to relevant support.

2. Have relevant bodies and stakeholders been consulted, including those with a specific interest in equalities?

- Have comments highlighting potential for discrimination or advancing equality been considered?

This is the first stage of the process which will look to elicit comments from stakeholders.

Standing members for Quality Standards Advisory Committees (QSACs) have been recruited by open advert with relevant bodies and stakeholders given the opportunity to apply. In addition to these standing committee members, specialist committee members from a range of professional and lay backgrounds relevant to prostate cancer are being recruited. The topic overview and request for areas of quality improvement will be published and wide stakeholder comment invited, including from those with a specific interest in equalities.

3. Have any population groups, treatments or settings been excluded from coverage by the quality standard at this stage in the process? Are these exclusions legal and justified?

- Are the reasons for justifying any exclusion legitimate?

It is anticipated that the quality standard will not cover the care of:

- Adults with bladder sarcoma.
- Adults with urothelial carcinoma of the ureter and renal pelvis.
- Adults with secondary cancers of the bladder or urethra (for example, colorectal cancer or cervical cancer invading the bladder).
- Children (younger than 18 years).

These exclusions are in line with the primary development source [NG2](#) for the quality standard.

Quality standards have already been published, or are in development for the care of people with other types of cancer, including [colorectal cancer](#) and [sarcoma](#).

There is already a published quality standard on the care of [children and young people with cancer](#).

4. If applicable, do any of the quality statements make it impossible or unreasonably difficult in practice for a specific group to access a service or element of a service?

- Does access to a service or element of a service depend on membership of a specific group?
- Does a service or element of the service discriminate unlawfully against a group?
- Do people with disabilities find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to receive a service or element of a service?

Not applicable at this stage.

5. If applicable, does the quality standard advance equality?

- Please state if the quality standard, including statements, measures and indicators, as described will advance equality of opportunity, for example by making access more likely for certain groups, by tailoring the service to certain groups, or by making reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities?

Not applicable at this stage.