

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND  
CARE EXCELLENCE**

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE**

**QUALITY STANDARDS**

**Quality standard topic:** Domestic violence

**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](http://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**

<b>Protected characteristics</b>
<b>Age</b>
<b>Disability</b>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>
<b>Race</b>
<b>Religion or belief</b>
<b>Sex</b>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>
<b>Other characteristics</b>
<b>Socio-economic status</b> 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).
<b>Marital status (including civil partnership)</b>

**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: Domestic violence

##### **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.

The NICE public health guidance notes that the risk of experiencing domestic violence or abuse is increased in women, those with a long-term illness or disability and in people with mental health problems. The risk is also increased in pregnancy although the NICE PH guidance notes pregnancy can offer protection for some women. The NICE PH guidance notes a strong correlation between postnatal depression and domestic violence and abuse and an elevated risk of abuse in women around the time of separation.

Partner abuse is the most prevalent form of domestic abuse. Partner violence is also prevalent in young people's relationships with girls experiencing more abuse than boys in intimate partner relationships. Young people in same sex relationships are also more at risk than those in heterosexual relationships. Domestic violence and abuse is more commonly inflicted on women by men. Although lesbian and bisexual women experience domestic violence and abuse at a similar rate to women in general the NICE PH guidance notes a third of this is associated with male perpetrators. Compared with men in general, gay and bisexual men experience more domestic violence. This includes domestic violence and abuse within same-sex relationships. The majority of trans people experience emotional, physical or sexual abuse from a partner or ex-partner.

The incidence of 'honour'-based violence and forced marriage are under-reported. However the NICE PH guidance notes they are probably more common in groups with greater oppressive patriarchal ideology e.g. some Pakistani, Kurdish, and Gypsy and Traveller communities. Both often involve wider family members and affect men, as well as women.

Abuse of parents by children is more commonly experienced by mothers than fathers and is more common among single parents.

##### **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 domestic violence 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?

The quality standard covers domestic violence in adults and young people who are experiencing (or have experienced) domestic violence, those who are perpetrating domestic violence, children who are exposed to domestic violence (that is, the violence is not perpetrated on them directly, but they witness or experience it), including those who are taken into care and the general population (for the purposes of prevention generally). This quality standard does not cover violence and abuse perpetrated on children by adults ('child abuse') as this will be covered in a future quality standard.

**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.

**6. Is an alternative format of the Information for the Public needed e.g. large font, easy read?**

Yes. Children who are exposed to domestic violence (that is, the violence is not perpetrated on them directly, but they witness or experience it), including those who are taken into care are included so may need an easy read version.