

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

CENTRE FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

QUALITY STANDARDS PROGRAMME

Quality standard topic: Lung cancer

Output: Equality impact assessment form – Topic Expert Group three

Introduction

As outlined in the [Quality Standards Programme interim process guide](#) (available from www.nice.org.uk), NICE has a duty to take reasonable action to avoid unlawful discrimination and advance equality of opportunity. 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 assessment is also designed to achieve compliance with NICE's obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Taking into account each of the equality characteristics in table 1, the form should be used to:

- confirm that equality issues have been considered
- 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:

- Selection of Topic Expert Group and Chair
- Topic Expert Group meeting one – scoping
- Topic Expert Group meeting two – creation of draft quality standard
- Topic Expert Group meeting three – creation of final quality standard.

Table 1

Equality characteristics^a
Sex/gender <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women• Men
Ethnicity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asian or Asian British• Black or Black British• Mixed/multiple ethnic groups• Irish• White British• Chinese• Other minority ethnic groups not listed• Gypsy or Irish Travellers
Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensory• Learning• Mental health• Cognitive• Mobility• Other impairment
Age^b <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and young people• Young adults• Older people
Sexual orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesbians• Gay men• Bisexual people
Gender reassignment
Religion and belief
Marriage and civil partnership
Pregnancy and maternity

Socio-economic status

Depending on policy or other context, this may cover factors such as social exclusion and deprivation associated with geographical areas (e.g. the Spearhead Group of local authorities and PCTs, neighbourhood renewal fund areas) or inequalities or variations associated with other geographical distinctions (e.g. the North/South divide, urban versus rural).

Other categories

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

^a This list is illustrative rather than comprehensive

^b Definitions of age groups may vary according to policy or other context

Quality standards equality impact assessment

Stage: Topic Expert Group three

Topic: Lung cancer

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

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

No equality issues impacting upon equality target groups additional to the considerations noted in the preamble to all quality standards (detailed below), have been identified during this stage of the development process.

2. Have relevant bodies and stakeholders been consulted?

- Have relevant bodies been consulted?
- Have comments from stakeholders that highlight potential for discrimination or advancing equality been considered?

To gain multiple perspectives from all stages of lung cancer, representation within the Topic Expert Group was sought from a variety of audiences including consultant respiratory physicians, physiotherapists, thoracic surgeons, clinical and medical oncologists, academics, GPs, nurse specialists, histopathologists, radiologists, lay members, commissioners and department of health representatives.

3. If exclusions exist at this stage in the process (for example, populations, treatments or settings) are these legal and justified?

- Are the reasons legitimate? (they do not discriminate against a particular group)
- Is the exclusion proportionate or is there another approach?

The quality standard does not cover children and young people (younger than 18) or people with mesothelioma, lung metastases arising from primary cancers originating from outside the lung, rare or benign lung tumours. The TEG considered that these conditions would be best addressed separately.

4. Do any of the quality statements make it impossible or unreasonably difficult in practice for a specific group to access a test or intervention?

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

The quality standard clearly states that good communication between health and social care professionals and people with lung cancer is essential. Treatment and care, and the information given about it, should be culturally appropriate. It should also be accessible to people with additional needs such as physical, sensory or learning disabilities, and to people who do not speak or read English. People with lung cancer should have access to an interpreter or advocate if needed.

5. Does the quality standard advance equality?

- Please state if the indicator as described will advance equalities of opportunity, for example by making access more likely for certain groups, or by tailoring the intervention to certain groups?

The Topic Expert Group considered the equality and diversity issues and highlighted that lower socioeconomic groups may be disadvantaged in terms of awareness of information campaigns and access to radical treatments. It was confirmed that one of the desired outcomes of the quality standard is to prevent this. The quality standard is intended to promote equality by ensuring all patients have access to these markers of a high quality service.

Approved and signed off:

Dr David Baldwin, Topic Expert Group Chair

Date:

Lorraine Taylor, Associate Director – Quality Systems

NICE

Date:

Mark Baker, Consultant Clinical Adviser – Short Clinical Guidelines

NICE

Date: