

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND
CARE EXCELLENCE**

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE

QUALITY STANDARDS

Quality standard topic: Constipation in children and young people

Output: Equality analysis form – Meeting 2

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: Meeting 2

Topic: Constipation in children and young people

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 quality standard aims to ensure that service provision and high quality care is provided to all groups of people.

Constipation in children and young people is associated with certain protected characteristics. For example children and young people with Down's syndrome or autism are particularly prone to idiopathic constipation, as are those with physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, in whom idiopathic constipation may be related to impaired mobility. There is also a higher prevalence in children and young people in local authority care.

The quality standard and its component statements does recognise the additional needs of people with disabilities and those within local authority care and the extra considerations which may be required when assessing and treating constipation within these groups.

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?

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 children and young people with constipation were recruited. The topic overview and request for areas of quality improvement was published and wide stakeholder comment invited, including from those with a specific interest in equalities. These suggested areas of quality improvement were then considered at the QSAC meeting attended by standing committee and specialist committee members.

The draft quality standard was published for a 4 week stakeholder consultation period between December 2013 and January 2014. All comments received were considered by the QSAC and a high level summary report produced of those consultation comments that may result in changes to the quality standard (see NICE website).

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 draft quality standard covers the diagnosis and management of idiopathic

constipation in children and young people; it will exclude adults which is consistent with NICE clinical guideline 99.

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?

These statements do not make it difficult for any specific groups to access a service.

Statement 5 is about providing written information about laxative treatment. The equality and diversity considerations for this statement clearly state that all information provided about idiopathic constipation and its management, including laxative treatment, should be accessible to children and young people, and their parents or carers, with additional needs, such as physical, sensory or learning disabilities, and to people who do not speak or read English. It also states that children and young people with idiopathic constipation, and their parents or carers, should have access to an interpreter or advocate if needed.

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?

By setting out the subgroups of children and young people who are more likely to experience constipation and by recognising the need for constipation care to be responsive to individuals' needs (for example see draft statement 1), the quality standard should advance equality. The draft quality standard includes specific equality considerations around the provision of written information (draft statement 5).

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

The QSAC committee was asked whether they felt an alternative format is needed. They felt that different languages, such as Welsh should be available. It was felt that an easy read version is also needed due to children and young people with learning disabilities, such as Down's syndrome or autism, being more prone to constipation. Additionally, an age-appropriate format for children and young people was suggested.