

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND  
CARE EXCELLENCE**

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE**

**QUALITY STANDARDS**

**Quality standard topic:** Urinary incontinence in women

**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](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: Meeting 2

#### Topic: Urinary incontinence in women

##### **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 QSAC highlighted that there is increased prevalence of urinary incontinence in older women however no specific recommendations are included in the guideline on varying treatment and care according to age. It is hoped the quality standard will promote equality in receiving care for all women.

The QSAC also highlighted that people with a disability may need additional support and that some women might prefer to see a female healthcare professional. To address these the quality standard states that:

- Women with physical disabilities may have difficulty accessing the service so provision needs to be made for a home visit if necessary.
- Women with learning disabilities may need to be escorted by a support worker or family member and may need to receive information about the condition in a way that is easy for them to understand.
- Some women, including those from certain ethnic groups, religious or cultural backgrounds may prefer to have an assessment and discussion with a female healthcare professional. Where possible, provision for this should be made.

All equality issues have been considered during the development of the quality standard to this stage.

##### **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 urinary incontinence in women have been 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 does not cover urinary incontinence in women younger than

18 years, men and patients with neurological problems.

A separate quality standard on 'Lower urinary tract symptoms in men' has been published (QS45).

A separate quality standard on nocturnal enuresis in children and young people under 18 has also been published (QS70).

A separate quality standard on neurological problems will be published.

There are no other exclusions at this stage.

**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?

The statements do not prevent any specific groups from accessing services (including tests and other interventions which are part of services).

Five statements acknowledge the potential difficulties for those with a disability. This has been reflected at a statement level.

**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?

A positive impact is expected. We believe these statements promote equality. The quality standard will be inclusive and ensure statements are relevant for all groups within the scope of the quality standard.