

# **Equality and health inequality assessment for methods and process changes**

## **Name of the policy, project, or programme**

NICE quality standard process guide update 2025.

## **Directorate or team**

Quality Hub, Centre for Guidelines.

## **Details of the person responsible for the EHIA (EHIA Owner)**

Mark Minchin, Associate Director, Centre for Guidelines

Craig Grime, Senior Measurement Lead, Centre for Guidelines

## **Aims, purpose and outcomes**

### **What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes?**

The aim of the project is to update the processes used to develop new and updated NICE quality standards.

### **How does this fit in with the objectives of NICE?**

This project supports delivery of NICE objectives to ensure that guidance is useful, usable and timely.

### **How does it relate to other NICE policies or activity?**

The updated process guide aligns to the [NICE transformation plan](#).

### **Who will benefit from it?**

Users of NICE quality standards will benefit from the updated processes as they will ensure the timely development and update of NICE quality standards. The updated process guide aims to reduce duplication of effort for stakeholders by aligning to guideline development timescales.

## What are the main activities involved in implementation?

Implementation steps will include engagement with relevant NICE committees and stakeholders.

## Engagement and involvement

This EHIA has been developed by the NICE quality standards team. It will be consulted on as part of the consultation on updated process guide for quality standards.

## Other evidence and information considered

A public consultation on the approach will be undertaken with all stakeholders to seek their views on the proposals. As part of this consultation process, we will seek additional views on whether any of the proposals raise equalities or health inequality issues.

## Impact and mitigation

### Impact and mitigation for protected characteristics or wider determinants of health

Protected characteristic or wider determinant of health	Impact	Mitigation
Age	-	-
Disability	Reducing the consultation period for updates to the NICE quality standards process guide from 3 months to 4 weeks could adversely affect contribution from stakeholder groups who involve people with a learning disability in the formulation of consultation responses.	A 4-week consultation on process guides aligns with approaches now taken across NICE. Any feedback raising concerns about the reduction of the consultation period will be presented to Guidance Executive. Guidance Executive could request additional engagement with stakeholders takes place.
Race or ethnicity	Reducing the consultation period for updates to the	A 4-week consultation on process guides aligns

	NICE quality standards process guide from 3 months to 4 weeks could adversely affect contribution from stakeholder groups who involve people with a learning disability in the formulation of consultation responses.	with approaches now taken across NICE.
Gender reassignment	None identified	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	None identified	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	None identified	N/A
Religion and belief	None identified	N/A
Sex	None identified	N/A
Sexual orientation	None identified	N/A
Socioeconomic status	None identified	N/A
Inclusion health and vulnerable groups	None identified	N/A
Comments across all equality strands	Utilisation of the guideline committee members in place of a full Quality Standards Advisory Committee could perpetuate any existing under-representation.	Guideline committee membership continues to be reported as part of equality monitoring.

## EHIA sign off

Mark Minchin, Associate Director, Centre for Guidelines.