

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Delirium: prevention, diagnosis and management (2023 update)

The impact on equality has been assessed during the development of the 2022 update according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

1.0 Scoping phase

1.1 Is the proposed primary focus of the guideline a population with a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration?

If so, what is it and what action might be taken by NICE or the developer to meet this need? (For example, adjustments to committee processes, additional forms of consultation.)

The following considerations from the 2010 EIA, relating to diagnosing delirium, were identified as relevant for this update:

Diagnosis of delirium in acute, critical and long-term care.

This will take into consideration people presenting with learning disability, linguistic or communication problems. This includes people who are not fluent enough English speakers to be able to engage with verbal diagnostic tests.

1.2 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the check for an update or during development of the draft scope, and, if so, what are they?

During the scoping process, the committee noted that people with pre-existing dementia, depression or other severe and enduring mental ill-health were at risk of being treated less favourable because changes in their mental state and behaviour are often attributed to their existing condition rather than to delirium.

1.3 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee?

The committee will need to address the issues around language, communication and cognitive ability when updating the recommendations.

They will also need to consider the ability of tools to differentiate delirium from background conditions.

Completed by Developer: Chris Carmona

Date: 14 July 2022

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Kay Nolan

Date: 26 July 2022

3.0 Guideline development: before consultation (to be completed by the Developer before consultation on the draft guideline)

3.1 Have the potential equality issues identified during the scoping process been addressed by the Committee, and, if so, how?

The committee discussed the difficulties in assessing delirium in people who have pre-existing cognitive impairment and who may not have good enough English language skills to engage in assessment. The evidence they saw did not allow them to make specific recommendations about this and so they made a research recommendation to address these issues.

3.2 Have any **other** potential equality issues (in addition to those identified during the scoping process) been identified, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

No other equality issues were noted.

3.3 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the guideline for consultation, and, if so, where?

The committee's considerations of these issues are reported briefly in the Rationale and Impact section of the guideline document and more fully in the Committee Discussion of the Evidence in the evidence review document.

The committee were not able to address the issues relating to communication or cognitive difficulties from the existing evidence and therefore made a research recommendation for future studies to explore these issues. The full detail of the research recommendation is in the appendices to the evidence review.

3.4 Do the preliminary recommendations make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

The committee believe that the recommendations will allow the assessment of delirium to be undertaken in a broad range of settings by a broad range of healthcare practitioners, which should make it easier to get an assessment for delirium.

3.5 Is there potential for the preliminary recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

The recommendations will not have an adverse impact on people with disabilities.

3.6 Are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to services identified in box 3.4, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligation to advance equality?

No barriers were identified in 3.4

Completed by Developer Chris Carmona

Date 26 September 2022

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: K Nolan

Date: 19 October 2022

4.0 Final guideline (to be completed by the Developer before GE consideration of final guideline)

4.1 Have any additional potential equality issues been raised during the consultation, and, if so, how has the Committee addressed them?

No additional equality issues were raised by stakeholders during the consultation.

4.2 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations that make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups? If so, what are the barriers to, or difficulties with, access for the specific group?

Minor amendments have been made to the recommendations following stakeholder consultation. The committee agreed these will not make it more difficult for any group to access services.

4.3 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, is there potential for the recommendations to have an adverse impact on people with disabilities because of something that is a consequence of the disability?

Minor amendments have been made to the recommendations following stakeholder consultation. The committee agreed these will not have an adverse impact on people with disabilities

4.4 If the recommendations have changed after consultation, are there any recommendations or explanations that the Committee could make to remove or alleviate barriers to, or difficulties with, access to services identified in question 4.2, or otherwise fulfil NICE's obligations to advance equality?

NA

4.5 Have the Committee's considerations of equality issues been described in the final guideline, and, if so, where?

The committee's considerations of these issues are reported briefly in the Rationale and Impact section of the guideline document and more fully in the Committee Discussion of the Evidence in the evidence review document.

The committee were not able to address the issues relating to communication or cognitive difficulties from the existing evidence and therefore made a research recommendation for future studies to explore these issues. The full detail of the research recommendation is in the appendices to the evidence review.

Updated by Developer: Chris Carmona

Date: 22 November 2022

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: K Nolan

Date: 16 January 2023