NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE quality standards

Equality impact assessment

Abortion care

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

### 1. TOPIC ENGAGEMENT STAGE

### 1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during this stage of the development process?

The guideline committee highlighted the following groups that need specific consideration:

* Women living in remote areas
* Women with complex pre-existing medical conditions
* Women with coexisting mental health problems
* Women with learning disabilities
* Vulnerable women (including sex workers and women who are homeless)
* Young women
* Women who have communication difficulties, because of vision or hearing problems or because they have difficulty understanding English
* Women suffering domestic violence, abuse or coercion from their partner or family
* Women who are socially disadvantaged.
* Women experiencing cultural barriers to accessing services.

Any specific needs of these groups will be highlighted during development of the quality standard.

### 1.2 Have any population groups, treatments or settings been excluded from coverage by the quality standard at this stage in the process. Are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

The quality standard for abortion care will not include:

* care between conception and requesting an abortion
* the ongoing care of women who decide not to have an abortion

Quality standards have already been published on antenatal care and antenatal and postnatal mental health. The quality standard on abortion care will focus on the time from when an abortion has been requested to completion of the abortion.

Completed by lead technical analyst: Melanie Carr

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Nick Baillie

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