

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Equality impact assessment

COVID-19 rapid guideline: severe asthma

The impact on equality has been assessed before publication according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

Final guideline (to be completed by the appropriate NICE staff member before GE consideration of final guideline)

Have any potential equality issues been identified?

Age

The guideline makes recommendations on minimising risk by offering alternatives to face-to-face services, for example video consultations and by providing information online. Older people may find it more difficult to access these services, which may increase feelings of isolation. The guideline attempts to mitigate this by advising several alternative communication methods, including phone consultations. The guideline also recommends that minimising face-to-face contact should be done 'wherever possible' to acknowledge that there are instances where it may still be required.

Older people are more likely to need help, for example from family members or unpaid carers. Not all of these people will have family living with them.

Socioeconomic factors

Some people may not have access to home delivery services (for example for medicines) because of where they live (for example, rural areas). Recommendations that people with severe asthma should limit contact with others may result in difficulties in obtaining medicines for these people. The recommendations state alternative ways of delivering medicines, such as postal or courier services, NHS Volunteer Responders or drive through pick-up points.

Disability

People with some learning and developmental disabilities may need reasonable adjustments to care pathways. Some disabled people may have particular communication needs that need to be taken into account when using alternatives to face-to-face contact. Taking these communication needs into account forms part of standard care, so no separate recommendations have been made.

After Guidance Executive amendments – if applicable (to be completed by appropriate NICE staff member after Guidance Executive)

Outline amendments agreed by Guidance Executive below, if applicable:
N/A

Approved by Developer: J Moore, Associate Director, NICE Field Team

Date: 23 April 2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Eric Power, Programme Director – Medicines and Quality

Date: 13 May 2020