

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Equality impact assessment

COVID-19 rapid guideline: delivery of systemic anticancer treatments (update February 2021)

The impact on equality has been assessed during the guideline update 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)

This equality impact assessment covers recommendations 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.5. The [equality impact assessment for the original guideline is also available](#).

Have any potential equality issues been identified in the update (in addition to those considered in the original guideline)?

Age

The guideline makes recommendations on minimising risk by offering alternatives to face-to-face contact, such as video consultations and providing information online. Older people may find it more difficult to use these services, which may increase their feeling of isolation. The guideline attempts to mitigate this by advising several alternative communication methods, including phone consultations. Older people are more likely to need support from family members or unpaid carers if a face-to-face consultation cannot be avoided. The guideline recommendations allow for this by advising that patients should try to come alone if they can, but allowing for a family member or carer to attend if needed.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups

A report by [Public Health England](#) in May 2020 identified that the people of Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups were at higher risk of getting COVID-19 infection, were more likely to have severe symptoms due to COVID-19 and were at higher risk of poorer outcomes.

The highest age standardised diagnosis rates of COVID-19 per 100,000 population were in people in Black ethnic groups.

Survival analysis in confirmed COVID-19 cases (after accounting for sex, age, deprivation and region) indicated that people of Bangladeshi origin had twice the risk of death compared to White British people, and people of Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, other Asian, Caribbean and other Black origin had 10 to 50% higher risk of death compared with White British people.

Emerging evidence suggests that excess mortality due to COVID-19 is higher in BAME groups. Individuals of Black African or Black Caribbean ethnicity may be of highest risk.

The panel considered the differential impact of COVID-19 in the UK population and decided that it should be explicitly mentioned in recommendations 1.5 and 3.1.

Disability

Some disabled people may not be able to communicate about their anxiety and fear, which may adversely affect their mental health. Taking these communication needs into account forms part of standard care and is not specific to the COVID-19 pandemic. The guideline overview page will state that this guideline should be used alongside usual [professional guidelines, standards and laws \(including equalities, safeguarding, communication and mental capacity\)](#).

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). The recommendations state alternative ways of delivering medicines, such as postal or courier services, NHS Volunteer Responders or drive through pick-up points. Some people may not have access to equipment to take part in remote consultations. Recommendation 1.2 provides a range of options for minimising face to face contact.

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:
None

Approved by Developer: Shelly Patel

Date 28 January 2021

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Emma McFarlane

Date 28 January 2021

After publication – if applicable (to be completed by appropriate NICE staff member)

Outline potential equality issues raised following publication
N/A

**After Guidance Executive post-publication 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