

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE Quality Standards Consultation – Domestic violence

Closing date: Please send this electronically by 5pm on **Tuesday 14th July 2015** to QSconsultations@nice.org.uk

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Please note: comments submitted on the draft quality standard are published on the NICE website.	
Would your organisation like to express an interest in formally supporting this quality standard? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
For information about supporting quality standards please visit http://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/Developing-NICE-quality-standards	

The Institute is unable to accept

- Comments received after the consultation deadline
- Comments submitted not on this proforma
- More than one response per stakeholder organisation
- Confidential information or other material that you would not wish to be made public
- Personal medical information about yourself or another person from which your or the person's identity could be ascertained

The personal data submitted on this form will be used by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for the purpose specified. The information will not be passed to any other third party and will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please provide comments on the draft quality standard on the form below, putting each new comment in a new row. When feeding back, please note the section you are commenting on (for example, section 1 Introduction). If commenting on a specific quality statement, please indicate the particular sub-section (for example, statement, measure or audience descriptor). If your comment relates to the standard as a whole then please put 'general'.

In order to guide your comments, please refer to the general points for consideration on the [NICE website](#) as well as the specific questions detailed within the quality standard.

Please add rows as necessary.

Section	Comments
Section 1: Introduction (page 2)	We are not convinced of the merit in the paragraph starting (Both men and women perpetrate...) as the figures in the previous paragraphs show that there is a ratio of 2:1 for women and men. To then place the extra emphasis and description on the gender split through this additional paragraph has the narrative effect of downplaying male victims – when all victims need to be recognised as equals based on individual need. This guidance should be about individuals with their gender as secondary (albeit important features) so the existence of the paragraph is not helpful and should be removed as it relegates men to being second class victims.
Quality Standard 1: Equality and Diversity Considerations (page 11)	<p>Male victims of domestic abuse must be included in the underrepresented groups for a number of reasons.</p> <p>Firstly, they are under recognised throughout the health system because the narrative for several decades on domestic abuse has been that it is an issue that only affects women. From our experience and the experience of those men who call our helplines, they still find it unrecognised when they come into contact with the health and social care services. For example, can NICE have confidence that every single piece of training healthcare professionals receive fully recognise male victims and that the professionals fully recognise the existence of male victims in the same way they rightly do for female victims.</p> <p>Adding men in this section would ensure that pressure was placed on health bodies and professionals to comply with the NICE Guidelines (PH50) on issues such as local data collection especially with the need to be able to refer male victims onto other services. This is not only a positive intervention and support in itself, it will also apply pressure on statutory authorities to ensure those services actually exist. The latter would ensure men would have access to the same type of journeys and escape routes female victims have but also this would ensure better compliance of the NICE Guidelines (PH50) and also the Equality Act (2010) – especially the Public Sector Equality Duty.</p>

Section	Comments
	<p>Secondly, men are far more reluctant than female victims to come forward. There are a number of reasons for this from the fear of not being believed, shame/pride and a sense of helplessness because they never see/hear campaigns about male victims so are not aware there is support for them. This has been recognised in official guidance from the Department for Public Prosecutions on handling domestic abuse cases – section 70 male victims (published 29 December 2014). In addition, British Crime Survey figures produced by the Office for National Statistics shows there are gender differences in whether victims of partner abuse disclose to official bodies:</p> <p>Telling someone in an official position: 22% men – 38% women Telling a health professional: 10% men – 15% women</p> <p>(Source - ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2012/13 http://tinyurl.com/nb4xga; Table 4.22 on Appendix Table: http://tinyurl.com/qgxb7xg)</p> <p>Due to this level of under-reporting, it is likely that not to mention/include male victims in the equality and diversity section may breach the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) as they are clearly a disadvantaged group</p>
Quality Standard 3: Equality and Diversity Considerations (page 17)	The comments in this section are the same as for the above section on Quality Standard 1
Quality Standard 4: Equality and Diversity Considerations (page 21)	<p>We greatly welcome the recognition about ensuring there are services to help men.</p> <p>Following on from this however, we would still want our comments for Quality Standard 1 and 3 to be considered as part of the equality and diversity considerations.</p>
Quality Standard 5:	As far as the charity is aware there are no formal specialist services for female perpetrators of domestic abuse,

Section	Comments
Equality and Diversity Considerations (page 25)	sexual violence, FGM or honour-based crimes. The charity's main focus is on domestic abuse. In terms of equality and diversity considerations therefore, it should be recognised that there is no such programmes and this minority group of perpetrators should be recognised under this section.

What will happen to your comments

A summary of the consultation comments, prepared by the NICE quality standards team, and the full set of consultation comments will be shared with the Quality Standards Advisory Committee (QSAC). The QSAC will then meet to review the comments and the quality standard will be refined with input from the QSAC chair and members.

Please note that NICE does not respond to consultation comments submitted on NICE quality standards. Instead, following the publication of the quality standard, NICE will provide stakeholders who submitted comments with a link to the minutes of the meeting that will summarise the committee discussions and decisions.

The summary of consultation comments and full set of comments received from registered stakeholders will be published on the NICE website alongside the quality standard. Comments received from individuals and non-registered stakeholders will be considered by the QSAC but will not be published on the website.

NICE reserves the right to summarise and edit comments received during consultations, or not to publish them at all, where in the reasonable opinion of the Institute, the comments are voluminous, publication would be unlawful or publication would be otherwise inappropriate.

Comments received in the course of consultations carried out by the Institute are published in the interests of openness and transparency. The comments are published as a record of the submissions that the Institute has received, and are not endorsed by the Institute, its officers or advisory committees.