

2.5 Based on the equality issues you identified in 2.2 and 2.3, what changes did you make or do you intend to make in relation to the policy or decision in order to promote equality of opportunity?

<i>In developing the policy or decision what did you do or change to address the equality issues you identified?</i>	<i>What do you intend to do in future to address the equality issues you identified?</i>
<p>All reference to “registration” or a “blind register” have been removed as there is no legislative basis for such references in Northern Ireland (no register exists) to reduce fear among older people, disabled people, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups and to consequently reduce barriers to services.</p> <p>There is quick (within 2 weeks of certification) proactive contact from Sensory Support rather than reactive. This will have particular benefits for people who are older, people who do not have the support of dependents and people who do not have the support of a spouse. In order to alert Sensory support staff of the additional needs faced by certain groups of patients, the new CVI forms ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Gender • Ethnicity • Does the patient live alone? • Does the patient also have a hearing impairment? • Does the patient have poor physical mobility? • Does the patient have a learning disability? • Please indicate if the patient has diabetes 	<p>There will be an annual review meeting to analyse the data collected in the CVI returns and other relevant audits, and to identify any gaps in provision or potential barriers to access.</p>

In relation to disability – an ID card is offered to all people certified with a sight impairment and a special ID card to people who have both a sight and a hearing impairment.

With regard to dexterity difficulties, a chart showing medication aids was developed for prescribers through the wider DEP Project as it was recognised that people with dexterity difficulties need additional support when self-administering eye drops and other medications.

In relation to ethnicity - interpreting and translation services are available if required.