

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Guideline scope

Advocacy services for adults with health and social care needs

The Department of Health and Social Care in England has asked NICE to develop a guideline on advocacy services for adults with health and social care needs.

1 What the guideline will cover

1.1 *Who is the focus?*

People using adult health or social care services in all settings, including those who have a legal right to an independent advocate.

1.2 *Activities, services or aspects of care*

Population	People using adult health or social care services in all settings, including those who have a legal right to an independent advocate
Key themes to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying those who would benefit from independent advocacy<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Who has a legal right to independent advocacy?– Who else would benefit from independent advocacy and how do we identify them?• Facilitating independent advocacy<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Improving access to independent advocacy– Enabling and supporting effective independent advocacy (for example: time, approach, environment)– Information about effective independent advocacy and signposting to services– Monitoring services and collecting data for quality improvement– Planning and commissioning services for independent advocacy (including services for those who do not have a legal right to independent advocacy)– Training and skills for practitioners who work with independent advocates• Delivering independent advocacy<ul style="list-style-type: none">– What does effective independent advocacy look like?

	– Training, skills and support for independent advocates
Key considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health inequalities • Culturally appropriate and culturally sensitive practice • Variation in service provision and delivery • Trade-offs between equity and efficiency • Adverse or unintended consequences • Current practice • Availability and accessibility for different population groups, including people who are under served by services • Status, knowledge and influence of practitioners
Key exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment support advocacy • Policy-based advocacy (including lobbying) • Shared decision making (a NICE guideline on this topic is in development) • Decision making and mental capacity (there is a NICE guideline on this topic)

2 Who the guideline is for

This guideline is for:

- Commissioners of social care services.
- Commissioners of health care services.
- Providers of social care services.
- Providers of health care services.
- Providers of independent advocacy services.
- Health and social care practitioners who work with independent advocates.
- Independent advocates.
- Training providers.
- People using health or social care services, their families and carers and the public.

NICE guidelines cover health and care in England. Decisions on how they apply in other UK countries are made by ministers in the [Welsh Government](#), [Scottish Government](#) and [Northern Ireland Executive](#).

3 Equality considerations

NICE has carried out an [equality impact assessment](#) during scoping. The assessment:

- lists equality issues identified, and how they have been addressed
- explains why any groups are excluded from the scope.

As outlined in the equality impact assessment, the guideline will look at inequalities across the protected characteristics. It will aim to capture any intersectionality (the experience of people who have more than 1 protected characteristic) and how this affects equality.

4 Approach to development of this guideline

We anticipate that further evidence reviews will not identify published research on advocacy beyond that which has been identified in previous NICE guidelines (for example, the [NICE guideline on decision-making and mental capacity](#)). We are therefore proposing to adopt/adapt recommendations on advocacy from existing NICE guidelines. We will also use formal consensus methods to develop recommendations in areas identified by key themes in this scope for which there are gaps.

We do not plan to do any new evidence reviews for this guideline. We will issue a call for evidence to ensure that we include any key sources that may have been omitted from existing NICE guidelines.

5 Related NICE guidance

Published

NICE has published the following guidance that is closely related to this guideline:

- [Supporting adult carers \(2020\) NICE guideline NG150](#)
- [Decision-making and mental capacity \(2018\) NICE guideline NG108](#)
- [People's experience in adult social care services \(2018\) NICE guideline NG86](#)
- [Care of dying adults in the last days of life \(2015\) NICE guideline NG31](#)

- [Medicines optimisation \(2015\) NICE guideline NG5](#)
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services \(2012\) NICE guideline CG138](#)
- [Service user experience in adult mental health \(2011\) NICE guideline CG136](#)
- [Medicines adherence \(2009\) NICE guideline CG76](#)

In development

NICE is currently developing the following guidance that is closely related to this guideline:

- Safeguarding adults in care homes. NICE guideline. Publication expected February 2021
- Infant, children and young people's experience of healthcare. NICE guideline. Publication expected April 2021
- Shared decision making. NICE guideline. Publication expected June 2021
- Adults with complex needs: social work interventions including assessment, care management and support. NICE guideline. Publication expected April 2022

NICE Pathways

NICE will develop a NICE Pathway on advocacy services for adults with health or social care needs.

6 Further information

This is the draft scope for consultation with registered stakeholders. The consultation dates are 21 December 2020 to 22 January 2021.

The guideline is expected to be published in December 2021.

You can follow progress of the [guideline](#).

Our website has information about how [NICE guidelines](#) are developed.

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