

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Preterm labour and birth

2 Introduction

2.1 *NICE quality standards*

NICE quality standards are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care.

The standards are derived from high-quality guidance, such as that from NICE or [accredited](#) by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with health, public health and social care practitioners, their partners and service users. Information on priority areas, people's experience of using services, safety issues, equality and cost impact are considered during the development process.

NICE quality standards are central to supporting the government's vision for a health and social care system that is focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for people who use services, as detailed in the [Health and Social Care Act \(2012\)](#).

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the [NICE website](#).

2.2 *This topic overview*

This topic overview describes core elements of the quality standard. These include the population and topic to be covered, key source guidance to be used to underpin potential quality statements, any related quality standards, published current practice information and national or routine indicators and performance measures.

If the source guidance is not NICE guidance, it should meet the minimum quality criteria defined in NICE's [accreditation programme](#).

3 This quality standard

This quality standard is expected to publish in October 2016.

3.1 *Population and topic to be covered*

This quality standard will cover care for women who are considered to be at risk of preterm labour and birth including diagnosing preterm labour. It will not include women with a multiple pregnancy.

3.2 *Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited sources)*

Primary source

- [Preterm labour and birth](#) (2015) NICE guideline NG25

Other sources that may be used

- [Diabetes in pregnancy](#) (2015) NICE guideline NG3
- [Intrapartum care](#) (2014) NICE guideline CG190
- [Hypertension in pregnancy](#) (2010) NICE guideline CG107
- [Inducing labour](#) (2008) NICE guideline CG70

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

Relevant policy documents, reports and national audits will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

- Department of Health (2013) [Maternity care facilities: planning and design \(HBN 09-02\)](#)
- NHS England (2013) [The National Friends and Family Test: guidance for maternity services](#)
- Scottish Government (2012) [Getting our priorities right](#)
- Department of Health (2011) [Preparation for birth and beyond: a resource pack for leaders of community groups and activities](#)
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2011) [Preterm labour, tocolytic drugs \(green-top guideline no. 1B\)](#)
- Scottish Government (2011) [A refreshed framework for maternity care](#)

- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2010) [Preterm prelabour rupture of membranes \(green-top guideline no. 44\)](#)
- King's Fund (2008) [Safe births: everybody's business](#)
- Care Quality Commission (2008) [Towards better births: a review of maternity services in England](#)
- Department of Health (2004) [National service framework: children, young people and maternity services](#)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Antibiotics for neonatal infection](#) (2014) NICE quality standard 75
- [Induction of labour](#) (2014) NICE quality standard 60
- [Multiple pregnancy: twin and triplet pregnancies](#) (2013) NICE quality standard 46
- [Hypertension in pregnancy](#) (2013) NICE quality standard 35
- [Caesarean section](#) (2013) NICE quality standard 32
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012) NICE quality standard 15
- [Neonatal specialist care](#) (2010) NICE quality standard 4

In development

- [Intrapartum care](#). Publication expected December 2015
- [Diabetes in pregnancy](#). Publication expected January 2016
- [Effective antimicrobial stewardship](#). Publication expected April 2016

Future quality standards

This quality standard will be developed in the context of all quality standards referred to NICE, including the following quality standards scheduled for future development:

- Cerebral palsy
- Developmental follow-up of preterm babies

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](#) on the NICE website.

Existing indicators

- NHS England [CCG Outcomes Indicator Set](#)- Reducing deaths in babies and young children

4 Further information

See the NICE website for more information about [NICE quality standards](#) and the [progress of this quality standard](#).