

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

### 1 Quality standard title

Sexual health.

### 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 February 2019.

#### 3.1 *Population and topic to be covered*

This quality standard will cover sexual health across the life course with a focus on reducing sexually transmitted infections. This quality standard will not cover [harmful sexual behaviour](#) or [contraception for the prevention of conception](#).

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

##### Primary source

- [Sexually transmitted infections: condom distribution schemes](#) (2017) NICE guideline NG68.
- [Contraceptive services for under 25s](#) (2014) NICE guideline PH51.
- [Sexually transmitted infections and under-18 conceptions: prevention](#) (2007) NICE guideline PH3.

##### Other sources that may be used

- [HIV testing: increasing uptake among people who may have undiagnosed HIV](#) (2016) NICE guideline NG60.
- [Hepatitis B and C testing: people at risk of infection](#) (2012) NICE guideline PH43.

##### 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.

- Public Health England (2018) [Sexual and reproductive health and HIV: applying All Our Health](#).
- Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (2017) [Service standards for risk management in sexual and reproductive health](#).
- NHS Digital (2017) [Sexual and reproductive health services, England - 2016-17](#).
- Public Health England (2017) [Condom distribution schemes in England 2015/16](#).

- Local Government Association (2015) [Sexual health commissioning in local government: building strong relationships, meeting local needs](#)
- Public Health England (2014) [Commissioning sexual health, reproductive health and HIV services](#)
- Department of Health and Social Care (2013) [A framework for sexual health improvement in England](#)

### **3.3 Related NICE quality standards**

In March 2012, the Department of Health and Social Care referred a library of quality standard topics for the NHS to NICE for development.

#### **Published**

- [HIV testing: encouraging uptake](#) (2017) NICE quality standard 157
- [Physical health of people in prisons](#) (2017) NICE quality standard 156
- [Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing](#) (2017) NICE quality standard 148
- [Contraception](#) (2016) NICE quality standard 129
- [Hepatitis B](#) (2014) NICE quality standard 65.

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

## **4 Existing indicators**

- Department of Health and Social Care [Public Health Outcomes Framework 2016 to 2019](#). 3.02 Chlamydia diagnoses (15-24 year olds).
- Department of Health and Social Care [Public Health Outcomes Framework 2016 to 2019](#). 3.04 People presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection.

## **5 Further information**

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

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