

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Rheumatoid arthritis in over 16s (update)

This quality standard will replace the existing NICE quality standard for [rheumatoid arthritis in over 16s](#) (QS33). The topic was identified for update following the annual review of quality standards in 2018. The review identified potential changes in the areas for improvement because there is good evidence for achievement of some of the quality statements. Updated guidance on [rheumatoid arthritis in adults](#) has also been published.

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.

3 This quality standard

This quality standard is expected to publish in January 2020.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover assessment, diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis in over 16s.

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

Primary source

- [Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management](#) (2018) NICE guideline NG100.

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 (2019) [Musculoskeletal health : applying All Our Health](#).
- Arthritis Action (2018) [Arthritis: The impact on daily life](#).
- National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (2018) [Emotional health & well-being matters: A UK wide survey of adults with rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis on the impact of their disease on emotional health and well-being](#).
- Public Health England (2017) [Productive healthy ageing and musculoskeletal \(MSK\) health](#).
- Arthritis Research UK (2017) [Providing physical activity interventions for people with musculoskeletal conditions report](#).

- National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (2017) [Work matters: A UK wide survey of adults with rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis on the impact of their disease on work.](#)
- British Society for Rheumatology (2016) [National clinical audit for rheumatoid and early inflammatory arthritis.](#)
- Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust (2015) [Developing an annual review clinic for people with rheumatoid arthritis.](#)
- Arthritis Research UK (2014) [Care planning and musculoskeletal health.](#)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Spondyloarthritis](#) (2018) NICE quality standard 170.
- [Osteoarthritis](#) (2015) NICE quality standard 87.
- [Psoriasis](#) (2013) NICE quality standard 40.
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012) NICE quality standard 15.

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:

- Elective joint replacement

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

- [Quality and Outcomes Framework 2018/19](#) RA001 The contractor establishes and maintains a register of patients aged 16 or over with rheumatoid arthritis
- [Quality and Outcomes Framework 2018/19](#) RA002 The percentage of patients with rheumatoid arthritis, on the register, who have had a face-to-face review in the preceding 12 months.
- [NICE QOF indicator NM121](#) The percentage of patients with coronary heart disease, stroke or TIA, diabetes, hypertension, peripheral artery disease, heart

failure, COPD, asthma and/or rheumatoid arthritis who have had a BMI recorded in the preceding 12 months.

- [NICE QOF indicator NM56](#) The percentage of patients with rheumatoid arthritis aged 30-84 years who have had a cardiovascular risk assessment using a CVD risk assessment tool adjusted for RA in the preceding 15 months.
- [NICE QOF indicator NM57](#) The percentage of patients aged 50-90 years with rheumatoid arthritis who have had an assessment of fracture risk using a risk assessment tool adjusted for RA in the preceding 27 months.

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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