

Guideline scope

Pancreatic cancer: diagnosis and management in adults

Topic

The Department of Health in England and NHS England have asked NICE to develop a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of pancreatic cancer.

This guideline will also be used to develop the NICE quality standard for pancreatic cancer.

For more information about why this guideline is being developed, and how the guideline will fit into current practice, see the [context](#) section.

Who the guideline is for

- Healthcare professionals in secondary and tertiary care who are involved in the diagnosis, treatment, care and support of people with pancreatic cancer.
- Commissioners of pancreatic cancer services (including clinical commissioning groups and NHS England specialised commissioning).
- Healthcare professionals in primary care.
- Healthcare professionals providing end-of-life care.
- People using pancreatic cancer services, their family members 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](#).

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.

1 What the guideline is about

1.1 Who is the focus?

Groups that will be covered

- Adults (18 and over) referred to secondary care with suspected pancreatic cancer.
- Adults (18 and over) with newly diagnosed or recurrent pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

Groups that will not be covered

- Adults (18 and over) in primary care with suspected pancreatic cancer.
- People with confirmed tumours of the pancreas other than pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

1.2 Settings

Settings that will be covered

All settings in which NHS care is provided.

1.3 Activities, services or aspects of care

Key areas that will be covered

- 1 Information and support needs for people with pancreatic cancer and their families and carers.
- 2 Referring people to specialist teams.
- 3 Diagnosing suspected pancreatic cancer.
- 4 Staging pancreatic cancer.

- 5 Managing pancreatic cancer.
- 6 Follow-up of people with pancreatic cancer.

Areas that will not be covered

Identifying people in primary care with suspected pancreatic cancer and referring them to secondary care.

1.4 Economic aspects

We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations. We will develop an economic plan that states for each review question (or key area in the scope) whether economic considerations are relevant, and if so whether this is an area that should be prioritised for economic modelling and analysis. We will review the economic evidence and carry out economic analyses, using an NHS and personal social services (PSS) perspective, as appropriate.

1.5 Key issues and questions

While writing this scope, we have identified the following key issues and draft review questions related to them:

- 1 Information and support needs for people with pancreatic cancer and their families
 - 1.1 What are the specific information and support needs of people who are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and their families or carers (as appropriate) throughout the care pathway?
- 2 Referral to specialist teams
 - 2.1 Does referral of all people with suspected pancreatic cancer to a regional centre or multidisciplinary team for review improve patient management and outcomes?
- 3 Diagnosing suspected pancreatic cancer
 - 3.1 What is the most effective diagnostic pathway (including CA 19–9, histology, cytology and imaging investigations) for people with suspected pancreatic cancer in secondary care who have obstructive jaundice?

- 3.2 What is the most effective diagnostic pathway (including CA 19–9, histology, cytology and imaging investigations) for people with suspected pancreatic cancer in secondary care who have no jaundice with pancreatic lump(s)?
- 3.3 What is the most effective diagnostic pathway (including CA 19–9, histology, cytology and imaging investigations) for people with suspected pancreatic cancer in secondary care who have pancreatic cysts?
- 3.4 What is the most effective diagnostic pathway (including CA 19–9, histology, cytology and imaging investigations) for people with suspected pancreatic cancer in secondary care who are from other high risk groups, for example, familial pancreatic cancer and hereditary pancreatitis (PRSS1 mutations)?
- 4 Staging pancreatic cancer
- 4.1 What is the most effective investigative pathway (for example, combinations of CA19-9, endoluminal ultrasound, CT, MRI, positron emission tomography (PET)-CT, tissue diagnosis, laparoscopy with or without ultrasound) for staging pancreatic cancer as resectable, borderline resectable, locally advanced and metastatic disease?
- 5 Management of pancreatic cancer
- 5.1 What is the most effective surgery for people with resectable and borderline resectable pancreatic cancer?
- 5.2 What are the most effective neoadjuvant therapies (chemotherapy, chemoradiotherapy, do nothing) for people with resectable and borderline resectable pancreatic cancer?
- 5.3 What is the most effective adjuvant therapy (chemotherapy, chemoradiotherapy or radiotherapy) for people who have had resection of pancreatic cancer?
- 5.4 What is the most effective treatment (chemotherapy, chemoradiotherapy or other local therapies) for people with locally advanced pancreatic cancer?
- 5.5. Do sympathectomy or neurolytic techniques effectively manage pain from locally advanced pancreatic cancer?
- 5.6 What is the most effective management of metastatic pancreatic cancer (for example, chemotherapy [excluding interventions covered by

NICE technology appraisals], symptom control, surgery for isolated metastases)?

5.7 What is the most effective management of duodenal obstruction?

5.8 What is the most effective management of biliary obstruction?

5.9 What nutritional interventions (for example, pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy, liquid nutritional supplements, dietetic assessment) improve outcomes for people with pancreatic cancer?

6 Follow-up of people with pancreatic cancer

6.1 What is the most effective follow-up protocol for people with resected pancreatic cancer?

The key questions may be used to develop more detailed review questions, which guide the systematic review of the literature.

1.6 Main outcomes

The main outcomes that will be considered when searching for and assessing the evidence are:

- 1 Overall survival.
- 2 Disease-free survival.
- 3 Nutritional status.
- 4 Pain.
- 5 Disease-related morbidity.
- 6 Treatment-related morbidity.
- 7 Treatment-related mortality.
- 8 Health-related quality of life.
- 9 Patient reported outcome measures.

2 Links with other NICE guidance, NICE quality standards and NICE Pathways

2.1 NICE guidance

NICE guidance about the experience of people using NHS services

NICE has produced the following guidance on the experience of people using the NHS. This guideline will not include additional recommendations on these topics unless there are specific issues related to pancreatic cancer:

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012) NICE guideline CG138
- [Medicines adherence](#) (2009) NICE guideline CG76

NICE guidance in development that is closely related to this guideline

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

- [Improving supportive and palliative care in adults \(update\)](#) NICE guideline. Publication expected January 2018.
- [Pancreatic cancer \(metastatic, untreated\) – liposomal cisplatin \(with gemcitabine\)](#) NICE technology appraisal. Publication date to be confirmed.
- [Pancreatic cancer \(metastatic\) - nimotuzumab \(1st line\)](#) NICE technology appraisal. Publication date to be confirmed.

2.2 NICE quality standards

NICE quality standards that may use this guideline as an evidence source when they are being developed

- Pancreatic cancer NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.

2.3 NICE Pathways

NICE Pathways bring together all related NICE guidance and associated products on a topic in an interactive topic-based flow chart. When this guideline is published, the recommendations will be added to [NICE Pathways](#).

Other relevant NICE guidance will also be added to the NICE Pathway, including:

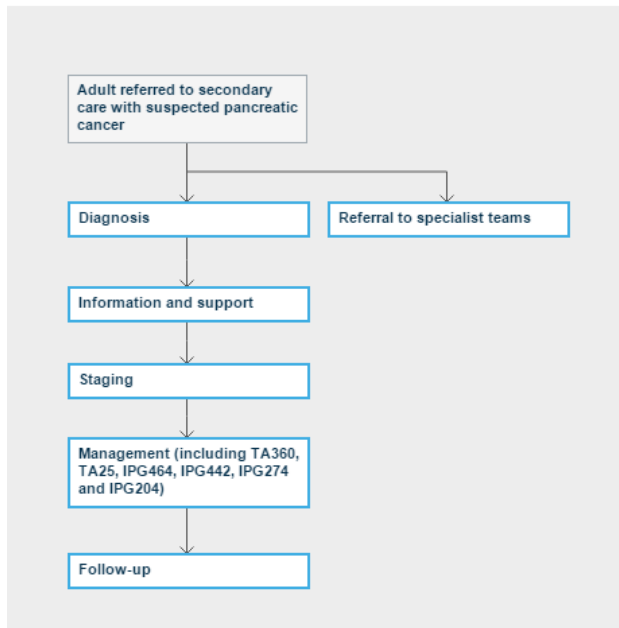
- [Suspected cancer: recognition and referral](#) (2015) NICE guideline 12
- [Paclitaxel as albumin-bound nanoparticles in combination with gemcitabine for previously untreated metastatic pancreatic cancer](#) (2015) NICE technology appraisal guidance 360
- [Guidance on the use of gemcitabine for the treatment of pancreatic cancer](#) (2001) NICE technology appraisal guidance 25
- [Endoscopic bipolar radiofrequency ablation for treating biliary obstruction caused by cholangiocarcinoma or pancreatic adenocarcinoma](#) (2013) NICE interventional procedure guidance 464
- [Irreversible electroporation for treating pancreatic cancer](#) (2013) NICE interventional procedure guidance 442
- [Autologous pancreatic islet cell transplantation for improved glycaemic control after pancreatectomy](#) (2008) NICE interventional procedure guidance 274
- [Laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy](#) (2007) NICE interventional procedure guidance 204

The NICE Pathway will also include links to:

- [Care of dying adults in the last days of life](#). NICE guideline NG31 (2015)
- [End of life care for adults](#). NICE quality standard 13 (2011)

A draft pathway outline on pancreatic cancer, based on the draft scope, is included below. It will be adapted and more detail added as the recommendations are written during guideline development. The pancreatic cancer pathway will be accessible from the [gastrointestinal cancers pathway](#).

Pancreatic cancer overview



3 Context

3.1 Key facts and figures

Pancreatic cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in the UK. On average, 23 people die each day from the disease. The UK has one of the worst survival rates in Europe, with average life expectancy on diagnosis just 4–6 months and a relative survival to 1 year of approximately 20%.

Only 3% of people survive for 5 years or longer. This figure has not improved much in over 40 years, and the more recent effects of increased surgery and adjuvant chemotherapy on survival outcomes are not yet established.

Because of late diagnosis only 4–10% of people with pancreatic cancer are eligible for potentially curative surgery. People who are able to have surgery to remove the tumour and be given adjuvant chemotherapy have up to a 30% chance of surviving 5 years.

3.2 Current practice

The symptoms of pancreatic cancer are non-specific. One survey found that 40% of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in England had visited their GP 3 or more times before the diagnosis was made. Fifty per cent of people

are diagnosed as an emergency in the A&E system. Even after diagnosis of pancreatic cancer there is evidence from the National Cancer Intelligence Network of wide variation in practice throughout England.

3.3 Policy, legislation, regulation and commissioning

Policy

Department of Health (2014) [Improving outcomes: a strategy for cancer fourth annual report](#)

Department of Health (2012) [Commissioning Cancer Services](#)

Department of Health (2015) [Achieving world-class cancer outcomes – A strategy for England 2015–2020](#)

Legislation, regulation and guidance

Department of Health (2001) [Improving outcomes in upper gastro-intestinal cancers](#)

European Society of Medical Oncology (2015) [Cancer of the Pancreas: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)

British Society of Gastroenterology (2005) [Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Pancreatic Cancer, Periampullary and Ampullary Carcinomas](#)

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (2014) [Guidelines for Patients: Pancreatic Cancer](#)

Royal College of Pathologists (2010) [Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the pancreas, ampulla of Vater and common bile duct](#)

4 Further information

<p>This is the final scope, incorporating comments from registered stakeholders during consultation. The guideline is expected to be published in January 2018.</p>

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

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