

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and management

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 2016.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover organisational factors in preventing and managing healthcare-associated infections in secondary care settings.

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

Primary sources

- Loveday HP, Wilson JA, Pratt RJ et al. (2014) [epic3: National evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections in NHS hospitals in England](#) Journal of Hospital Infection 86 (Supplement 1) S1-S70
- [Prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections](#) (2011) NICE guideline PH36

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) [Guidance for infection control in the built environment](#)
- Health Protection Agency (2012) [Healthcare associated infection: operational guidance and standards for health protection units](#)
- Department of Health (2010) [The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance](#)

- National Audit Office (2009) [Reducing healthcare associated infections in hospitals in England](#)
- Department of Health (2008) [Clean, safe care: reducing infections and saving lives](#)
- The Kings Fund (2008) [Healthcare-associated infections](#)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Antibiotics for neonatal infection](#) (2014) NICE quality standard 75
- [Infection prevention and control](#) (2014) NICE quality standard 61
- [Surgical site infection](#) (2013) NICE quality standard 49
- [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:

- Effective antimicrobial stewardship
- Influenza
- Non-antibiotic clinical management of infectious diseases
- Norovirus
- Outbreak planning and control
- Sepsis

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 (2014) [NHS Outcomes Framework 2015-16](#) 5.2 Incidence of healthcare associated infection (HCAI) i. MRSA ii. C. difficile
- Department of Health (2014) [Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013 to 2016](#) 4.3 [Mortality rate from causes considered preventable](#)

NICE quality standard: Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and management overview (April 2015)

- Department of Health (2014) [Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013 to 2016 4.8 Mortality rate from communicable diseases](#)
- Public Health England (2014) [Healthcare associated infections \(HCAI\): guidance, data and analysis](#)

5 Further information

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