

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Children's attachment

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 identification, assessment and treatment of attachment difficulties in children and young people up to age 18 who are adopted from care, in special guardianship, looked after by local authorities in foster homes (including kinship foster care), residential units and other accommodation, or on the edge of care.

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

Primary source

- [Children's attachment: attachment in children and young people who are adopted from care, in care or at high risk of going into care](#) (2015) NICE guideline NG26

Other sources that may be used

- [Looked-after children and young people](#) (2010) NICE public health guidance PH28
- [Child maltreatment: when to suspect maltreatment in under 16s](#) (2009) NICE clinical guideline CG89
- [Post-traumatic stress disorder: management](#) (2005) NICE clinical guideline CG26

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.

- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2015) [Looked after children: knowledge, skills and competences of health care staff](#)
- Local Government Association (2015) [Healthy beginnings: giving our children the best start in life](#)
- Department for Education (2015) [Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked-after children](#)
- Office for National Statistics (2015) [Measuring national well-being, children and young people's well-being in the UK](#)
- New Economics Foundation (2014) [Relationships for children in care](#)
- The Sutton Trust (2014) [Baby bonds: parenting, attachment and a secure base for children](#)
- The Child Protection All Party Parliamentary Group (2013) [Making care proceedings better for children](#)
- Department for Education (2011) [Children Act 1989: fostering services](#)
- Department for Education (2011) [Supporting looked-after children with communication needs](#)
- Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (2010) [Vulnerable children: knowledge review 1: Improving educational outcomes for looked after children and young people](#)
- Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (2010) [Vulnerable children: knowledge review 2: Improving the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children and young people](#)
- Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (2010) [Vulnerable children: knowledge review 3: Increasing the numbers of care leavers in 'safe, settled accommodation'](#)
- Department for Education (2010) [Children Act 1989: care planning, placement and case review](#)
- Her Majesty's Stationery Office (2002) [Adoption and Children Act 2002](#)
- Her Majesty's Stationery Office (2000) [Children \(Leaving Care\) Act 2000](#)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Looked-after children and young people](#) (2013) NICE quality standard QS31

In development

- [Early years: promoting health and wellbeing](#). Publication expected August 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:

- Child abuse and neglect
- School-based interventions: health promotion and mental well-being
- Transition from children's to adult services

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

- National Audit Office (2014) [Children in care](#)

5 Further information

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