

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Low back pain and sciatica

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,

NICE quality standard: Low back pain and sciatica overview (November 2016)

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 July 2017.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover assessment and management of non-specific low back pain and sciatica in people aged 16 and over.

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

Primary source

- [Low back pain and sciatica](#) NICE guideline. Publication expected November 2016.

We are aware that publication of the final guideline occurs during this engagement exercise. At this stage, stakeholders are asked to suggest key areas for quality improvement using either the draft or final guideline.

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.

- The Scottish Government (2015) [Allied Health Professional Musculoskeletal Pathway Minimum Standards: A Framework for Action 2015-2016](#)
 - The Health and Work Development Unit (2012) [Back pain management: Occupational health practice in the NHS in England. A national clinical audit – round 2](#)
 - National Pain Audit (2012) [National Pain Audit Final Report 2010-2012](#)
- NICE quality standard: Low back pain and sciatica overview (November 2016)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

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:

- Workplace: long-term sickness absence and management
- Pain management (young people and adults)

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 [NHS Outcomes Framework](#) indicators 2.1 Proportion of people feeling supported to manage their condition, 2.2 Employment of people with long term conditions.
- [Public health outcomes framework for England, 2016–19](#) 1.09 Sickness absence rate, domain 1 Improving the wider determinants of health

5 Further information

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