

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD SCOPE

1 Quality standard title

Hypertension

2 Quality standards

NICE quality standards are a set of specific, concise statements that act as markers of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, covering the treatment and prevention of different diseases and conditions.

NICE quality standards are derived from the best available evidence, such as NICE guidance and other NICE accredited sources. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with the NHS, social care professionals, and their partners and service users, and address clinical and cost effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

This work is intended to help the NHS focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for patients.

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the NICE website (see section 5, 'Further information').

3 This standard

This scope defines what the standard will (and will not) consider. It is based on the referral from the Department of Health and has been drafted following the first meeting of the Topic Expert Group.

The areas that will be considered by the standard are described in the following sections.

3.1 Population

3.1.1 Groups that will be covered

- a) Adults (18 years and older) with hypertension.

3.1.2 Groups that will not be covered

- a) Children and people younger than 18 years.
- b) Pregnant women (as this group will be covered by a separate quality standard on [hypertension in pregnancy](#)).

3.2 Healthcare settings

- a) Primary care.
- b) Secondary care (excluding emergency care).
- c) Community settings in which NHS care is received.

3.3 Areas of care

The areas of care of a patient's pathway used to inform the development of the quality statements are set out in section 3.3.1. During the development of the standard the Topic Expert Group will decide which of these areas are suitable for quality statements and measures. The draft quality statements and measures will be the subject of a public consultation. The content of the quality standard statements may change during the process and may differ after consultation with stakeholders.

3.3.1 Areas of care that will be considered

- a) Diagnosis, including:
 - accurate measurement of blood pressure
 - investigations prior to confirmation of diagnosis
 - ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM).
- b) Monitoring of treatment efficacy and adherence, including:
 - targeting treatment and monitoring

- annual review of care.
- c) Referral to a specialist in hypertension for:
- younger adults (aged 18 to 40)
 - people with resistant and suspected secondary causes of hypertension
 - people requiring emergency hypertension care.

3.3.2 Areas of care that will not be considered

- a) Formal estimation of cardiovascular risk.
- b) Choice of antihypertensive drug treatment.
- c) The management of people with:
- secondary hypertension
 - accelerated hypertension.

3.4 *Economic aspects*

The Topic Expert Group will take into account both clinical and cost effectiveness when prioritising the quality statements to be included in the quality standard. The economic evidence will be considered, and the cost and commissioning impact of implementing the quality standard will be assessed.

3.5 *Timing*

The development of the quality standard will begin in May 2012.

4 Key development sources

Relevant NICE guidance (published and in development) will be used to develop the quality standard. If available, other NHS Evidence accredited sources will also be used.

4.1 **Published sources**

- [Hypertension](#). NICE clinical guideline 127 (2011).
- [Medicines adherence](#). NICE clinical guideline 76 (2009).
- [Lipid modification](#). NICE clinical guideline 67 (2008).

4.2 **Related NICE quality standards**

4.2.1 **Published standards**

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard (2012).
- [Diabetes in adults](#). NICE quality standard (2011).
- [Chronic kidney disease](#). NICE quality standard (2011).

4.2.2 **Standards in development**

Available from www.nice.org.uk

- Hypertension in pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication expected July 2013.

4.3 **Key policy documents and national audits**

Relevant national audits and policy documents will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

4.3.1 **Policy context**



- [Percutaneous transluminal radiofrequency sympathetic denervation of the renal artery for resistant hypertension](#). NICE interventional procedure guidance 418 (2012).



- Clinical Knowledge Summaries (2009) [Hypertension in people who do not have diabetes mellitus - management](#).
- Royal College of Physicians (2007) [Pharmacological management of hypertension](#).
- UK National Screening Committee (2006) [The UK NSC policy on hypertension screening in adults](#).
- National Kidney Foundation (2004) [Clinical practice guidelines on hypertension and antihypertensive agents in chronic kidney disease](#).

- National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (2003) [The seventh report of the Joint National Committee on prevention, detection, evaluation, and treatment of high blood pressure](#).

4.3.2 National audits and surveys

- NHS Information Centre (2011) [QOF England level data tables 2010/11 – clinical domain](#).
- NatCen Social Research (2010) [Health Survey for England](#).
- QResearch (2005) [Report to the National Audit Office - quality of care for stroke and TIA in general practice using the new GMS contract indicators](#).

5 Further information

Information on the quality standard development process is provided in:

- 'Developing NICE quality standards: interim process guide'.

This is available from the NICE website

(www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards). Information on the progress of the quality standard is also available from the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk).