

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD SCOPE

1 Quality standard title

Multiple pregnancy

2 Quality standards

NICE quality standards are a prioritised set of concise, measurable statements that draw on existing guidance to drive quality improvements and act as markers of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, covering the treatment and prevention of different diseases and conditions.

NICE quality standards are selected 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 with delivery of the best possible outcomes for patients.

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the NICE website (see section 7, 'Further information').

3 This standard

The Department of Health has asked NICE to produce a quality standard addressing multiple pregnancy. This scope defines what the standard will (and will not) consider and has been drafted following the first meeting of the Topic Expert Group.

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

3.1 *Population*

3.1.1 Groups that will be covered

- a) Women confirmed as having a twin or triplet pregnancy by routine ultrasound.

3.1.2 Groups that will not be covered

- a) Women with a singleton, quadruplet or higher-order pregnancy.

3.2 *Healthcare settings*

- a) Primary, community and hospital-based care.

3.3 *Areas of care*

The areas of care 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 to be prioritised 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 may change during the process and may differ after consultation with stakeholders.

3.3.1 Areas of care that will be considered

- a) Determining gestational age and chorionicity.
- b) The composition and responsibilities of the core and enhanced healthcare team, including monitoring for maternal complications.
- c) Consistency and continuity of care, including care given in instances of fetal death.
- d) Provision of information on screening for fetal complications.
- e) Offering screening for Down's syndrome.

- f) Ultrasound screening for fetal complications, including structural abnormalities, feto-fetal transfusion syndrome and intrauterine growth restriction.
- g) Indications for referral to tertiary care.
- h) Preparation for preterm birth, including information on the risk of preterm birth.
- i) The use of targeted corticosteroids for elective birth.
- j) Offering an elective birth.
- k) Preparation for parenting, including advice on breastfeeding.

3.3.2 Areas of care that will not be considered

- a) Routine antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care of women and their babies.
- b) The management of complications that arise during pregnancy (for example, feto-fetal transfusion syndrome, gestational diabetes, pre-eclampsia and venous thromboembolism).

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 began in October 2012.

4 Key development sources

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

4.1 **Published sources**

- [Multiple pregnancy: the management of twin and triplet pregnancies in the antenatal period](#). NICE clinical guideline 129 (2011).
- [Hypertension in pregnancy: the management of hypertensive disorders during pregnancy](#). NICE clinical guideline 107 (2010).
- [Antenatal care](#). NICE clinical guideline 62 (2008).
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2008) [Monochorionic twin pregnancy, management \(Green-top 51\)](#). London: Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

5 **Related NICE quality standards**

5.1.1 **Published standards**

- [Antenatal care](#). NICE quality standard (2012).
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard (2012).
- [Specialist neonatal care](#). NICE quality standard (2010).

5.1.2 **Standards in development**

Available from www.nice.org.uk

- Caesarean section. NICE quality standard. Publication expected May 2013.
- Hypertension in pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication expected July 2013.
- Postnatal care. NICE quality standard. Publication expected July 2013.
- Antenatal and postnatal mental health. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Diabetes in pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Induction of labour. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Intrapartum care. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Pain and bleeding in early pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.

- Premature labour. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.

6 Key policy documents and national audits

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

6.1.1 Key policy documents

- [Maternity matters: choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service](#). Department of Health (2007).

6.1.2 National audits

- [Perinatal mortality 2009](#). Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (2011).
- [Saving mothers' lives. Reviewing maternal deaths to make motherhood safer: 2006–2008](#). Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (2011).
- [Parents' views on the maternity journey and early parenthood](#). Department of Health (2011).
- [Maternal obesity in the UK: findings from a national project](#). Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (2010).
- [Maternity services survey 2010](#). Care Quality Commission (2010).
- [Multiple failings. Parents of twins and triplets experience of pre and postnatal NHS care \(TAMBA Health and Lifestyle Survey 2008\)](#). Twins and Multiple Births Association (2009).

Please also refer to the [NICE website](#) for the full library of healthcare quality standards.

7 Further information

Information on the quality standard development process is provided in the [NICE quality standards process guide](#) (October 2012).

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