

# **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

## **QUALITY STANDARD SCOPE**

### **1 Quality standard title**

Surgical site infection.

### **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 prevention and treatment of different diseases and conditions.

NICE quality standards are derived from the best available evidence, such as NICE guidance and other evidence sources accredited by NICE. 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) examine. 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 addressed by the standard are described in the following sections.

### **3.1 Population**

#### **3.1.1 Groups that will be covered**

- a) Adults and children undergoing surgical incisions through the skin.

#### **3.1.2 Groups that will not be covered**

- a) Adults and children undergoing procedures without visible surgical incision (for example, vaginal hysterectomy, transurethral resection of the prostate and oral surgery; procedures involving intravascular catheters, shunts, endoscopy and pin site). However, the Topic Expert Group developing this standard felt that some areas of care, in particular those which are preoperative, may apply to these groups.

### **3.2 Healthcare settings**

- a) Primary and community care, secondary care and tertiary care.

### **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) Preoperative care (including patient and staff preparation, screening for *Staphylococcus aureus*, antibiotic prophylaxis and preoperative warming).
- b) Intraoperative care (including hand decontamination, antiseptic skin preparation, appropriate physical barriers and maintaining patient homeostasis).

- c) Postoperative care (including postoperative wound care and antibiotic treatment).
- d) Patient surveillance for surgical site infections.
- e) Environmental factors (including operating room facilities).

### **3.3.2 Areas of care that will not be considered**

- a) None.

## **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 January 2013.

# **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***

- [Infection: prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections in primary and community care](#). NICE clinical guideline 139 (2012).
- [Prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections](#). NICE public health guidance 36 (2011).
- [Inditherm patient warming mattress for the prevention of inadvertent hypothermia](#). NICE medical technology guidance 7 (2011).
- [Prevention and treatment of surgical site infection](#). NICE clinical guideline 74 (2008).
- [Perioperative hypothermia \(inadvertent\)](#). NICE clinical guideline 65 (2008).

## **4.2 Related NICE quality standards**

### **4.2.1 Published standards**

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard (2012).

### **4.2.2 Standards referred to the core library but not yet in development**

- Infection control
- Perioperative care.

## **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.

- Health Protection Agency (HPA) (2011) [Surveillance of surgical site infections in NHS hospitals in England](#)
- Department of Health (2010) [The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance](#)
- Health Protection Agency (2010) [Sixth report of the mandatory surveillance of surgical site infection in orthopaedic surgery: April 2004 to March 2010](#)
- Department of Health (2009) [National Decontamination Programme: theatre support pack](#)
- National Audit Office (2009) [Reducing healthcare associated infections in hospitals in England](#).

## **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](http://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](http://www.nice.org.uk)).