

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Metastatic spinal cord compression

2 Introduction

2.1 *NICE quality standards*

NICE quality standards are concise sets of statements designed to drive and measure priority quality improvements within a particular area of care.

The standards are derived from NICE guidance and other guidance [accredited](#) by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with NHS and social care professionals, their partners and service users. Recommendations relating to effectiveness and cost effectiveness, 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 an NHS 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.

NICE quality standard: Metastatic spinal cord compression overview (May 2013)

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

The development of the quality standard will begin in May 2013 and is expected to take 10 months to complete.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover the diagnosis and management of metastatic spinal cord compression in adults and the prevention of metastatic spinal cord compression in adults at risk.

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

Primary source

- [Metastatic spinal cord compression](#). NICE clinical guideline 75 (2008).

Other sources that may be used

- [Denosumab for the prevention of skeletal-related events in adults with bone metastases from solid tumours](#). NICE technology appraisal guidance 265 (2012).
- [Lung cancer](#). NICE clinical guideline 121 (2011).
- [Referral guidelines for suspected cancer](#). NICE clinical guideline 27 (2011).
- [Advanced breast cancer](#). NICE clinical guideline 81 (2009).
- [Prostate cancer](#). NICE clinical guideline 58 (2008).

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

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

- [Improving outcomes: a strategy for cancer](#). Department of Health (2011).
- [Manual for Cancer Services](#). Department of Health (modified 2011).

- [A guide to practice-based commissioners in developing good cancer care services](#). Department of Health (2010).
- [Delay in diagnosis and treatment of spinal cord compression](#). National Patient Safety Agency (2010).
- [Audit of radiotherapy practice for metastatic spinal cord compression at a UK tertiary referral centre](#). National Cancer Research Institute Conference (2010).
- Commissioning Cancer Services Department of Health (2011).
- [Cancer Reform Strategy](#). Department of Health (2007).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard 15 (2012).
- [Lung cancer](#). NICE quality standard 17 (2012).
- [Breast cancer](#). NICE quality standard 12 (2011).

In development

- [Faecal incontinence](#). Publication expected February 2014.

Quality standards topic library

In March 2012, the Department of Health referred a [library of quality standard topics](#) for the NHS to NICE for development.

This quality standard will be developed in the context of the NICE quality standard topic library, including the following quality standards scheduled for future development:

- Neurological problems.
- Pain management (young people and adults).
- Prostate cancer.
- Radiotherapy services.
- Referral for suspected cancer.

4 Existing indicators

- Under 75 mortality rate from cancer. [NHS Outcomes Framework 2013 to 2014](#) Department of Health.
- [Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset \(COSD\) - lung](#). Health & Social Care Information Centre.
- [Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity](#). NHS England.
- [Radiotherapy Dataset](#). The National Cancer Services Analysis Team.
- [Geographic patterns of cancer survival in England](#). Office for National Statistics.

5 Further information

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