

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Feverish illness in children (from birth to 5 years of age)

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 healthcare professionals and 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,

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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

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

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover the assessment and initial management of feverish illness in children from birth to their 5th birthday.

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

Primary source

- [Feverish illness in children](#). NICE clinical guideline 160 (2013).

Other sources that may be used

- [Antibiotics for early-onset neonatal infection](#). NICE clinical guideline 149 (2012).
- [Bacterial meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia](#). NICE clinical guideline 102 (2010)
- [Urinary tract infection in children](#). NICE clinical guideline 54 (2007).

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.

- [Report of the children and young people's health outcomes forum](#). Department of Health (2013).

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- [Children and young people's health outcomes forum: report by the acutely ill themed group](#). Department of Health (2013).
- [Improving children and young people's health outcomes: a system wide response](#). Department of Health (2013).
- [Standards for children and young people in emergency care settings](#). Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2012).
- [Guidelines for the management of community acquired pneumonia in children: update 2011. British Thoracic Society](#) (2011).
- [Meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia guidance notes: diagnosis and treatment in general practice](#). Meningitis Research Foundation (2011).
- [Standards for assessing, measuring and monitoring vital signs in infants, children and young people: RCN guidance for children's nurses and nurses working with children and young people](#). Royal College of Nursing (2011).
- [Achieving equity and excellence for children](#). Department of Health (2010).
- [Getting it right for children and young people: overcoming cultural barriers in the NHS so as to meet their needs. Department of Health](#) (2010)
- [To understand and improve the experience of parents and carers who need advice when a child has a fever \(high temperature\): research report](#). Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2010).
- [Review of patient safety for children and young people](#). National Patient Safety Agency (2009).
- [Caring for children with fever: RCN good practice guidance for nurses working with infants, children and young people](#). Royal College of Nursing (2008).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Urinary tract infection in infants, children and young people under 16](#). NICE quality standard 36 (2013).
- [Bacterial meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia in children and young people](#). NICE quality standard 19 (2012).

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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:

- Acute medical admissions in the first 48 hours.
- Managing symptoms with an uncertain cause.
- Out of hours care.
- Pneumonia (including community acquired pneumonia).
- Sepsis.
- Tuberculosis.
- Urgent and emergency care.

4 Existing indicators

- [Children and young people's health services secondary uses data set](#). The Health and Social Care Information Centre.

5 Further information

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