

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital

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,

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 December 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 management of adults' intravenous fluid needs in hospital. Intravenous fluid therapy is the provision of fluid and/or electrolytes directly into the vein. This quality standard will not cover the use of blood or blood products.

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

Primary source

- [Intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital](#). NICE clinical guideline 174 (2013).

Other sources that may be used

- [Acutely ill patients in hospital](#). NICE clinical guideline 50 (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.

- [The "never events" list 2012/13](#). Department of Health (2012).
- [Extremes of age](#). National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (1999).
- [Safety in doses: improving the use of medicines in the NHS: learning from national reporting 2007](#). National Patient Safety Agency (2009).

NICE quality standard: intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital overview (November 2013)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard 15 (2012).
- [Chronic kidney disease](#). NICE quality standard 5 (2011).

In development

- [Infection control](#). Publication expected April 2014.
- [Delirium](#). Publication expected July 2014.

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 kidney injury
- Acute medical admissions in the first 48 hours
- Major trauma
- Resuscitation following major trauma and major blood loss
- Sepsis
- Urgent and emergency care

4 Existing indicators

- None identified.

5 Further information

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