

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Alcohol: preventing harmful alcohol use in the community

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 February 2014 and is expected to take 10 months to complete.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover the prevention of harmful alcohol use in the community. It will not cover screening and brief interventions as this was previously covered by [NICE quality standard 11](#).

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

Primary sources

- [Alcohol-use disorders: preventing harmful drinking](#). NICE public health guidance 24 (2010).
- [School-based interventions on alcohol](#). NICE public health guidance 7 (2007).

Other sources that may be used

- [Behaviour change: individual approaches](#). NICE public health guidance 49 (2014).
- [Social and emotional wellbeing in secondary education](#). NICE public health guidance 20 (2009).
- [Behaviour change: the principles for effective interventions](#). NICE public health guidance 6 (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.

- [Drinking habits amongst adults, 2012](#). Office for National Statistics (2013).
- [Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England – 2012](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2013).
- [Reducing harmful drinking](#). Department of Health (2013).
- [The government's alcohol strategy](#). Home Office (2012).
- [Alcohol guidelines](#). House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (2012).
- [Healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England](#). Department of Health (2010).
- [Signs for improvement – commissioning interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm](#). Department of Health (2009).
- [Reducing alcohol harm: health services in England for alcohol misuse](#). National Audit Office (2008).
- [Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy](#). Department of Health (2007).

3.3 *Related NICE quality standards*

Published

- [Alcohol dependence and harmful alcohol use](#). NICE quality standard 11 (2011).

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:

- Cirrhosis

4 Existing indicators

- [Local Alcohol Profile datasets](#). North West Public Health Observatory (2013).
- [Statistics on alcohol – England 2013](#). The Health and Social Care Information Centre (2013).

5 Further information

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