

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Falls

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 health, 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 July 2014 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 prevention of falls in older people. Older people are those aged 65 years and over. The quality standard will include the assessment and prevention of falls for older people living in the community and during a hospital stay. For the assessment and prevention of falls during a hospital stay, people aged 50 to 64 years who are admitted to hospital and are judged by a clinician to be at higher risk of falling because of an underlying condition are also covered by the quality standard.

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

Primary source

- [Falls: assessment and prevention of falls in older people](#). NICE clinical guideline 161 (2013).

Other sources that may be used

- [Falls - risk assessment](#). NICE clinical knowledge summary (2014).
- [Essential care after an inpatient fall](#). National Patient Safety Agency (2011).

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

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

- [NHS Safety Thermometer Report- May 2013 to May 2014](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2014).
- [The Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme \(FFFAP\)](#). Royal College of Physicians (2013).
- [Falls Prevention Exercise – following the evidence](#). Age UK (2013).
- [Exploring the system-wide costs of falls in older people in Torbay](#). The King's Fund (2013).
- [The Strategy for Older People in Wales 2013-2023](#). Welsh Government (2013).
- [Older people's experiences of therapeutic exercise as part of a falls prevention service](#). Royal College of Physicians (2012).
- [Report of the 2011 inpatient falls pilot audit](#). Royal College of Physicians (2012).
- [Breaking Through: Building Better Falls and Fractures Services in England](#). Age UK and the National Osteoporosis Society (2012).
- [Commissioning care homes: common safeguarding challenges](#). SCIE guide 46 (2012).
- [Implementing FallSafe: Care bundles to reduce inpatient falls](#). Royal College of Physicians (2012).
- [Falling standards, broken promises](#). Royal College of Physicians (2011).
- [Slips, trips and falls data update](#). National Patient Safety Agency (2010).
- [Slips, trips and falls in hospital](#). National Patient Safety Agency (2007).
- [The 'How to' Guide for Reducing harm from falls](#). National Patient Safety Agency and Patient Safety First campaign (2009).
- [Don't mention the F-word: Advice to practitioners on communicating falls prevention messages to older people](#). Age UK (2005).
- [Stop Falling: Start Saving Lives and Money](#). Age UK.

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Hip fracture in adults](#). NICE quality standard 16 (2012).

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard 15 (2012).
- [Service user experience in adult mental health](#). NICE quality standard 14 (2011).

In development

- [Head injury](#). Publication expected October 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:

- Complex fractures (including compound fractures).
- Falls: regaining independence for older people who experience a fall.
- Fractures (excluding head and hip).
- Regaining independence: short-term interventions to help people to regain independence.
- Resuscitation following major trauma and major blood loss
- Service user and carer experience: service user and carer experience of social care.
- Social care of older people with more than one physical or mental health long term condition in residential or community settings.
- Transition between social care and health care services
- Trauma services

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](#).