

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Atrial fibrillation

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

This quality standard is expected to publish in July 2015.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover identification, treatment and management of atrial fibrillation (including paroxysmal, persistent and permanent atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter) in adults (18 years and older).

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

Primary source

- [Atrial fibrillation](#). NICE clinical guideline 180 (2014).

Other sources that may be used

- [Antithrombotics: indications and management](#). Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (2013).

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.

- [Grasp the initiative: action plan](#). Atrial Fibrillation Association (2014).
- [National audit of cardiac rhythm management devices](#). National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (2014).
- [UK report \(white book\)](#). European Heart Rhythm Association (2014).
- [Cardiovascular disease outcomes strategy: improving outcomes for people with or at risk of cardiovascular disease](#). Department of Health (2013).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Hypertension](#). NICE quality standard 28 (2013).
- [Stable angina](#). NICE quality standard 21 (2012).
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard 15 (2012).
- [Alcohol dependence and harmful alcohol use](#). NICE quality standard 11 (2011).
- [Chronic heart failure](#). NICE quality standard 9 (2011).
- [Diabetes in adults](#). NICE quality standard 6 (2011).
- [Venous thromboembolism prevention](#). NICE quality standard 3 (2010).
- [Stroke](#). NICE quality standard 2 (2010).

In development

- [Physical activity: encouraging activity in all people in contact with the NHS \(staff, patients and carers\)](#). Publication expected January 2015.
- [Lipid modification](#). Publication expected September 2015.
- [Risk assessment of modifiable cardiovascular risk factors](#). Publication expected September 2015.
- [Acute heart failure](#). Publication expected December 2015.

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:

- Medicines optimisation (covering medicines adherence and safe prescribing).
- Physical activity: encouraging activity within the general population
- Primary prevention: population and community based primary prevention strategies, including the role of A&E, at different stages of the life course.

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](#) on the NICE website.

4 Existing indicators

- QOF AF001. [The contractor establishes and maintains a register of patients with atrial fibrillation.](#)
- QOF AF004. [In those patients with atrial fibrillation in whom there is a record of a CHADS2 score of 1, the percentage of patients who are currently treated with anti-coagulation drug therapy or anti-platelet therapy.](#)
- QOF AF005. [In those patients with atrial fibrillation whose latest record of a CHADS2 score is greater than 1, the percentage of patients who are currently treated with anti-coagulation therapy.](#)
- [The percentage of patients with atrial fibrillation in whom stroke risk has been assessed using the CHA2DS2-VASc score risk stratification scoring system in the preceding 12 months \(excluding those whose previous CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or above\).](#) NICE menu: NM81.
- [In those patients with atrial fibrillation whose latest record of a CHA2DS2-VASc score is 2 or above, the percentage of patients who are currently treated with anti-coagulation drug therapy.](#) NICE menu: NM82.

5 Further information

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