



# Diabetes: gestational diabetes annual HbA1c test

NICE indicator

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[www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind173](http://www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind173)

## Indicator

The percentage of women who have had gestational diabetes, diagnosed more than 12 months ago, who have had an HbA1c test in the preceding 12 months.

## Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. For a full list of NICE indicators, see our [menu of indicators](#).

To find out how to use indicators and how we develop them, see our [NICE indicator process guide](#).

## Rationale

The aim of this indicator is to improve the ongoing monitoring of women with a history of gestational diabetes and to ensure that those who go on to develop type 2 diabetes are identified at an early stage and offered appropriate treatment.

Women with a history of gestational diabetes are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes, even when glucose levels have returned to normal limits during the initial post-natal period. Current evidence suggests that the rates of follow-up in the form of annual HbA1c testing in this group are low, with the potential for care to be improved ([McGovern et al. 2014](#)).

### Reference:

[McGovern A, et al. \(2014\) Diabetes screening after gestational diabetes in England: a quantitative retrospective cohort study. British Journal of General Practice 64 \(618\): e17–23.](#)

## Source guidance

[Diabetes in pregnancy: management from preconception to the postnatal period. NICE guideline NG3 \(2015, updated 2020\), recommendation 1.6.14](#)

## Specification

**Numerator:** The number of patients in the denominator who have had a HbA1c test in the preceding 12 months.

**Denominator:** Women who have had gestational diabetes.

**Calculation:** Numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

**Exclusions:** Women diagnosed more than 12 months ago.

**Expected population size:** The [Office of National Statistics \(ONS, 2024\) estimates of the population for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, mid-2022 edition \(MYE1: summary for the UK, England, females and all persons\)](#) show that 51% of people in

England are female: of 5,100 per 10,000 patients served by a network. During development ([IND173 resource impact assessment](#)) it was estimated that 0.4% of this population has been previously diagnosed with gestational diabetes: 21.9 per 10,000.

During development, it was noted that historically, coding of patients with gestational diabetes has been poor, so prevalence may be greater than estimated.

## Update information

**September 2024:** We replaced information about the minimum population with that of the expected population size. We also added a note about estimated prevalence.

**December 2020:** We added a specification (including information about exclusion criteria), the minimum population and the recommendation number to the source guidance section. We removed the introduction section and recommendation wording.

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