

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Air pollution: outdoor air quality and health

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 February 2019.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover road-traffic-related air pollution and its links to ill health.

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

Primary source

- [Air pollution: outdoor air quality and health](#) (2017) NICE guideline NG70

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.

- Chief Medical Officer (2018) [Annual report of the chief medical officer 2017: health impacts of all pollution-what do we know?](#)
- House of Commons (2018) [Improving air quality: Fourth Report of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, Fourth Report of the Environmental Audit Committee, Third Report of the Health and Social Care Committee, and Second Report of the Transport Committee of Session 2017–19](#)
- DEFRA (2017) [Air quality: a briefing for directors of public health](#)
- DEFRA and Department of Transport (2017) [Clean air zone framework: principles for setting up clean air zones in England](#)
- DEFRA and Department for Transport (2017) [UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations](#)
- Local Government Association (2017) [A country in a jam: tackling congestion in our towns and cities. How councils are dealing with congestion and how they could do more](#)
- National Audit Office (2017) [Air quality](#)
- Public Health England (2016) [Working together to promote active travel: a briefing for local authorities](#)

NICE quality standard: Air pollution – outdoor air quality and health overview (May 2018)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing](#) (2017) NICE quality standard 148
- [Physical activity: for NHS staff, patients and carers](#) (2015) NICE quality standard 84.

In development

- [Physical activity: encouraging activity within the general population](#). Publication expected June 2019.

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:

- Heat wave planning
- Internal air: health effects
- Maternal health: promoting maternal health through community based strategies
- Programme management: effective ways to run public health programmes to generate a change in behaviour
- Spatial planning and health outcomes
- Transport and health

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

- [NHS Outcomes Framework 2016/17](#): 1.1 Under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease; 1.2 Under 75 mortality rate from respiratory disease
- [Public health outcomes framework for England 2016-2019](#): 3.01 Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution; 4.04 Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (including heart disease and stroke); 4.07 Under 75 mortality rate from respiratory diseases

- NHS Digital Local basket of inequality indicators [Indicator 5.1 - Number of days per year when pollution of moderate or above PM1 Ozone, and average annual nitrogen dioxide concentration](#)

5 Further information

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

© NICE [2018]. All rights reserved. Subject to [Notice of rights](#).