

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

### 1 Quality standard title

Varicose veins in the legs.

### 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,

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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 November 2013 and is expected to take 10 months to complete.

#### **3.1 Population and topic to be covered**

This quality standard will cover the diagnosis and management of varicose veins in the legs and associated chronic venous leg ulcers in adults (aged 18 and over). The particular needs of pregnant women will be considered.

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

##### **Primary source**

- [Varicose veins in the legs](#). NICE clinical guideline 168 (2013).
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (2010) [Management of chronic venous leg ulcers: a national clinical guideline](#).

##### **Other sources that may be used**

- [The MIST Therapy system for the promotion of wound healing](#). NICE medical technologies guidance 5 (2011).
- Clinical Knowledge Summaries (2011) [Antenatal care – uncomplicated pregnancy](#).
- [Antenatal care: routine care for the healthy pregnant woman](#). NICE clinical guideline 62 (2008).

##### **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.

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- [PROMs special topic – satisfaction with and success of surgery April 2010–March 2011](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2013).
- [Patient reported outcome measures \(PROMs\) in England: the case-mix adjustment methodology](#). Department of Health (2012).
- [Finalised patient reported outcome measures \(PROMs\) in England – April 2010 to March 2011, pre- and post-operative data](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2012).
- [PROMs special topic – EQ-5D descriptive system 2009–2010](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2012).
- [PROMs special topic – patient-level data 2009–2012](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2012).
- [PROMs special topic – equality 2009–2011](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2011).

### **3.3 Related NICE quality standards**

#### **Published**

- [Antenatal care](#). NICE quality standard 22 (2012).
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard 15 (2012).

## **4 Existing indicators**

- [NHS outcomes framework 2013/14](#), Domain 3, Helping people to recover from ill-health or following injury. Improvement area: Improving outcomes from planned treatments. 3.1 Total health gain as assessed by patients for elective procedures, iv Varicose veins.
- [Clinical commissioning group outcome indicator set 2013/14](#), Domain 3, Helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health or following injury. Improvement area: Improving outcomes from planned treatments. 3.3 Increased health gain as assessed by patients for elective procedures, d. Varicose veins.

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## 5 Further information

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