



Quick reference guide

Statins for the prevention of cardiovascular events

1 Guidance

This guidance relates only to the initiation of statin therapy in adults with clinical evidence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and in adults considered to be at risk of CVD. It assumes that other strategies for managing CVD risk are being appropriately considered when initiating statin therapy. The guidance does not include specific advice for genetic dyslipidaemias (for example, familial hypercholesterolaemia). The guidance relates only to the use of statins within their licensed indications.

A clinical guideline on cardiovascular risk assessment is currently in development (expected date of publication: September 2007). This guidance should be read in the context of the clinical guideline when it is available.

- 1.1 Statin therapy is recommended for adults with clinical evidence of CVD.
- 1.2 Statin therapy is recommended as part of the management strategy for the primary prevention of CVD for adults who have a 20% or greater 10-year risk of developing CVD. This level of CVD risk should be estimated using an appropriate risk calculator, or by clinical assessment for people for whom an appropriate risk calculator is not available (for example, older people, people with diabetes or people in high-risk ethnic groups).

1.3 Within the recommendations outlined in Section 1.1 and Section 1.2, the decision whether to initiate statin therapy should be made after an informed discussion between the responsible clinician and the individual about the risks and benefits of statin treatment, and taking into account additional factors such as comorbidities and life expectancy.

1.4 When the decision has been made to prescribe a statin, it is recommended that therapy should usually be initiated with a drug with a low acquisition cost (taking into account required daily dose and product price per dose).

2 Implementation

This appraisal is supported by the following implementation tools available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA094):

- a national costing report, which estimates the overall resource impact associated with implementation
- a local costing template: a simple spreadsheet that can be used to estimate the local cost of implementation.

Suggestions for audit to measure compliance locally can be found in the full guidance (see 'Further information').

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This guidance is written in the following context

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Further information

Quick reference guide

This has been distributed to healthcare professionals working in the NHS in England and Wales (see www.nice.org.uk/TA094distributionlist). It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA094quickrefguide

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N0971).

Full guidance

This contains the following sections:

- 1 Guidance
- 2 Clinical need and practice
- 3 The technology
- 4 Evidence and interpretation
- 5 Recommendations for further research
- 6 Implications for the NHS
- 7 Implementation and audit
- 8 Related guidance
- 9 Review of guidance.

The full guidance also gives details of the Appraisal Committee, the sources of evidence considered and suggested criteria for audit. It is available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA094guidance).

Information for the public

Information for people who have or are at risk of cardiovascular disease, their families and the public is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA094publicinfo

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N0972).

Related guidance

For information about NICE guidance on cardiovascular disease that has been issued or is in development, see the website (www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=91497).