NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

# NICE indicator guidance

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## Indicator CCG53

The proportion of people who have had an acute stroke whose swallowing is screened by a specially trained healthcare professional within 4 hours of admission to hospital.

## Indicator type

Clinical commissioning group indicator.

## Rationale

Swallowing difficulties can result in aspiration and reduced oral intake for people with stroke. These in turn can lead to the potentially serious complications of pneumonia, undernutrition and dehydration. This indicator aims to identify those individuals at risk as soon as possible, as these complications may be avoidable or reversible.

## Source guidance

[Stroke and ischaemic attack in over 16s: diagnosis and initial management.](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng128) [NICE guideline NG128](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng128) (2019), recommendation 1.6.1.

[National clinical guideline for stroke.](https://www.strokeaudit.org/Guideline/Full-Guideline.aspx) [Royal College of Physicians clinical guideline](https://www.strokeaudit.org/Guideline/Full-Guideline.aspx) (2016), recommendation 4.16.1.A (NICE accredited guideline)

## Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator in whom swallowing is screened within 4 hours of admission (or within 4 hours of onset of stroke for those patients who are already in hospital at the time of the stroke) by a healthcare professional trained in dysphagia screening, before being given any food, fluid or medication orally.

Denominator: The number of stroke patients admitted to hospital.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator)\*100

Exclusions:

* Patients with an impaired level of consciousness.
* Patients who refuse screening.

Data source: [Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme.](https://www.strokeaudit.org/)

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance of individual CCGs.

## Further information

This is NICE indicator guidance, which is part of the [NICE menu of indicators](https://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/index). This document does not represent formal NICE guidance.