NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

# NICE indicator guidance

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## Indicator NM33

The percentage of patients with peripheral arterial disease with a record in the preceding 15 months that aspirin or an alternative antiplatelet is being taken.

## Indicator type

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

## Rationale

The focus of the management of peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is on the secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. It is important to reduce the cardiovascular complications of atherosclerosis through appropriate cardiovascular risk factor management. By decreasing the risk of thrombosis formation, antiplatelet therapy (aspirin or clopidodrel) may reduce the occurrence of acute cardiovascular events. This indicator addresses the issue of prescribing anti-platelet therapy.

## Source guidance

[Peripheral arterial disease: diagnosis and management. NICE guideline CG147](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg147/chapter/Recommendations) (2012), recommendation 1.2.1.

[Clopidogrel and modified-release dipyridamole for the prevention of occlusive vascular events. NICE technology appraisal guideline TA210](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta210) (2010), recommendation 1.1.

## Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator with a record in the preceding 15 months that aspirin or an alternative antiplatelet is being taken.

Denominator: The number of patients with peripheral arterial disease.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator)\*100

Exclusions: The number of patients already prescribed an anti-coagulant.

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level.

## 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.