NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

# NICE indicator guidance

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## Indicator NM56

The percentage of patients with rheumatoid arthritis aged 30-84 years who have had a cardiovascular risk assessment using a CVD risk assessment tool adjusted for RA in the preceding 15 months.

## Indicator type

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

## Rationale

Rheumatoid arthritis is a significant, independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease and causes increased mortality compared with the general population.

Most existing cardiovascular disease risk assessment models do not treat rheumatoid arthritis as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease, and therefore the scores underestimate the person’s risk. It is recommended that the cardiovascular disease risk assessment is repeated annually, unless patients have established cardiovascular disease (for example, coronary heart disease, stroke and transient ischemic attack), or familial hypercholesterolemia.

## Source guidance

[Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management. NICE guideline NG100](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng100) (2018), recommendation 1.9.3.

## Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator who had a CVD risk assessment using a CVD risk assessment tool adjusted for RA in the preceding 15 months.

Denominator: Patients with rheumatoid arthritis aged 30-84 years.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator)\*100

Exclusions: Patients who have any of the following diagnoses in their record:

* coronary heart disease (CHD)
* stroke
* transient ischemic attack (TIA)
* familial hypercholesterolemia.

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.