

Scope for guideline update (starting 2026)

Domestic abuse

16/12/2025

NICE is updating and replacing its guideline on domestic violence and abuse: multi-agency working (PH50). We will be updating some existing recommendations, standing down others and making new recommendations. The guideline will have a new title, 'Domestic abuse'.

It will cover domestic abuse as defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional or other abuse.

The guideline will be developed using the methods and processes in [developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#).

Who the guideline update covers

The update will cover the following groups using the definitions in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

- Young people and adults aged 16 years and over who are at risk of perpetrating or are perpetrating domestic abuse.
- Young people and adults aged 16 years and over with direct experience of domestic abuse, as victims, when the person perpetrating the abuse is aged 16 years or over.

- Babies, children and young people aged under 18 years who see, hear or experience the effect of domestic abuse and are related to or under the 'parental responsibility' of the victim or person perpetrating the abuse. This is in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Equality considerations

A new [equality and health inequalities impact assessment](#) has been completed.

Settings

The guideline will cover all NHS health and mental health settings. It will also cover social care settings where health or mental health services work together with social care.

Activities, services or aspects of care covered by the guideline update

We will consider making recommendations or updating existing recommendations on:

- preventing domestic abuse, where there are risk factors for abuse
- identifying domestic abuse including support for disclosure by
 - young people and adults (aged 16 years and over) who are at risk of perpetrating or are perpetrating domestic abuse
 - young people and adults (aged 16 years and over) experiencing domestic abuse
 - children and young people (aged under 18 years) exposed to domestic abuse
- interventions and approaches, including support and treatment for domestic abuse.

Recommendations that are being retained from the current guideline may be revised to update language, reflect current policy or practice and legislation, and to ensure consistency with new content.

This guideline update will not cover:

- interventions involving the activities of the police, criminal justice, education, early years and youth services prevention
- identification of domestic abuse and specialist domestic abuse services delivered by social care alone
- interventions for people who have experienced female genital mutilation

Draft review questions

We have developed the following draft review questions. These may change during guideline development, but the areas covered will remain as listed in the final scope.

The areas covered and draft questions will be used to develop more detailed review protocols.

We will not be reviewing the evidence on the following:

- general principles of care covered in NICE foundational guidelines
- recommendations on good practice or general principles of care that are not linked to review questions or evidence
- training or competency in areas that are the responsibility of professional bodies or professional health and care regulators.

Prevention

- What is the effectiveness of interventions and approaches (to be specified in the review protocol) for preventing domestic abuse where there are risk factors for abuse?

Identification and disclosure

- What is the effectiveness of interventions and approaches (to be specified in the review protocol) for identifying domestic abuse, including support for disclosure?
- What factors influence identification and disclosure of domestic abuse to health and care professionals?

Interventions and approaches

- What is the effectiveness of interventions and approaches (to be specified in the review protocol) for people with direct experience of domestic abuse, as victims, defined in this scope
- What is the effectiveness of interventions and approaches (to be specified in the review protocol) for babies, children and young people aged under 18 years who see, hear or experience the effect of domestic abuse?
- What is the effectiveness of interventions and approaches (to be specified in the review protocol) for people perpetrating domestic abuse, including preventing re-offending?
- What factors influence access to interventions and approaches for people experiencing, exposed to or perpetrating domestic abuse?

Economic aspects

We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations. For each review question (or key areas in the scope), we review the economic evidence and, where appropriate, carry out economic modelling and analyses, to assess the value for money (cost effectiveness) of interventions. This is done using an NHS and personal social services perspective. A wider public sector perspective may be undertaken, depending on availability of relevant data.

NICE guidance and quality standards that may be affected by this update

- [Antenatal and postnatal mental health: clinical management and service guidance](#) (2014 updated 2020) NICE guideline CG192
- [Child abuse and neglect](#) (2017) NICE guideline NG76
- [Contraceptive services for under 25s](#) (2014) NICE guideline PH51
- [Depression in children and young people: identification and management](#) (2019) NICE guideline NG134
- [Digital front door technologies to gather service user information for NHS talking therapies for anxiety and depression assessments: early value assessment](#) (2025) NICE health technology evaluation HTE30
- [Domestic violence and abuse](#) (2016) NICE quality standard 116
- [Fertility problems: assessment and treatment](#) (2013, updated 2017) NICE guideline CG156
- [Intrapartum care for women with existing medical conditions or obstetric complications and their babies](#) (2019) NICE guideline NG121
- [People's experience in adult social care services: improving the experience of care and support for people using adult social care services](#) (2018) NICE guideline NG86
- [Pregnancy and complex social factors: a model for service provision for pregnant women with complex social factors](#) (2010) NICE guideline CG110

- [Sexually transmitted infections: condom distribution schemes NICE guideline](#) (2017) NG68

Incorporating NICE technology appraisals

NICE technology appraisal guidance will be incorporated into the guideline where relevant. For further details, see our [web page on bringing our guidance together by topic](#).

Further information

The guideline update is expected to be published in **September 2027**.

To follow the progress of the update, see the [guideline in development page](#).

Our website has information about [how NICE guidelines are developed](#).

NICE guidelines cover health and care in England. Decisions on how they apply in other UK countries are made by ministers in the [Welsh Government](#), [Scottish Government](#) and [Northern Ireland Executive](#).

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