

Transient loss of
consciousness ('blackouts')
management in adults and
young people

Guide to resources

Implementing NICE guidance

2010

This guide to resources accompanies the clinical guideline: 'Transient loss of consciousness ('blackouts') management in adults and young people' (available online at: www.nice.org.uk/CG109).

Issue date: 2010

This is a support tool to help guide people to resources that may support the implementation of NICE guidance.

It is not NICE guidance.

Promoting equality

Implementation of this guideline is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guideline, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by other organisations.

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Introduction

NICE has produced this guide to help people involved in putting the NICE guideline on Transient loss of consciousness (TLoC) into practice.

It highlights a selection of resources available from NICE, government and other organisations, which can be used alongside the NICE guide '[How to change practice](#)'.

The recommendations in the NICE guideline are aimed at a range of different audiences, including:

- Ambulance staff
- Emergency Department staff
- General Practitioners
- Patients, families and carers.

NICE has developed this guide in consultation with key stakeholders and experts in the area, and it has been tested by potential users of the guide (see acknowledgements). It has been designed to provide an overview of information directly related to the guideline, but it is not an exhaustive list. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of, and does not endorse, any information or advice provided by other organisations that is linked to in this document.

The resources are listed in order of publication date, with the most recent first under each heading. Hyperlinks take you directly to the resource, where possible. These hyperlinks were correct at the time of publication; if they no longer work because changes have been made to external websites, you should visit the relevant home page to search for the document.

Government strategy and policy documents

Document	Relevance
<p>Department of Health (2005) Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework, Chapter 8. London: HMSO. Available from www.dh.gov.uk</p>	<p>Chapter 8 was added to the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework (CHD NSF) 5 years after chapters 1–7 were published in 2000. Chapter 8 extends the scope of the NSF to include cardiac arrhythmias (electrical disorders of the heart), and the way in which the NHS responds to sudden cardiac death.</p> <p>There has been a number of implementation tools published alongside this chapter, which are available in the health and welfare section of the web archive at The National Archives.</p> <p>Please be aware that Initial treatment 1 – blackouts care pathway is slightly different from the NICE TLoC pathway. The NICE TLoC pathway should be used because it reflects the current evidence base.</p>

Resources for healthcare professionals

Document	Relevance
Resources from NHS organisations and healthcare professional-focused organisations	
NHS improvement – Heart Arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death website Available from www.improvement.nhs.uk	This web page contains information and links to resources useful for services responsible for people with arrhythmias and at risk of sudden cardiac death. This web page has a link to an Arrhythmia resource library. This library does not contain many resources focused on ensuring best practice in the initial management of TLoC, but there are resources related to the longer term management of TLoC with a cardiac-related cause.
Heart Rhythm UK About HRUK Available from www.hruk.org.uk	Heart Rhythm UK is the affiliated group of the British Cardiovascular Society dedicated to improving all aspects of cardiac arrhythmia care and electrical device-based therapies. Heart Rhythm UK is also affiliated to Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity. It acts as a unifying focus for professionals involved in arrhythmia care and electrical therapies in the UK.
Resources from Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) and Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity	
Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) Rapid Access TLoC Clinic Available from www.starstloc.org	This site has been designed to support the set up and management of a triage tool to assist the rapid and accurate diagnosis of unexplained periods of unconsciousness. Please note the NICE guideline does not specifically name rapid access blackout / TLoC clinics. Where appropriate the guideline recommends referral for a specialist cardiovascular assessment (by the most appropriate local service) or referral to a specialist in epilepsy.
Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity Palpitation checklist Arrhythmia checklist Available from www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk	Both of these checklists help the patient and doctor determine if the patient is suffering from an arrhythmia and whether the patient has experienced a blackout.

<p>Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity Medical area Available from www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk</p>	<p>The secure medical area of Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity website can be accessed by logging in for free and receiving a password. This section of the website has resources for medical professionals and is only for medical members of Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity.</p> <p>The secure area of the website has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care pathways Job descriptions Medical papers Drug protocols Publications Devices & surgery Presentations NSF chapter 8 Establishing Rapid Access Clinics News & events Useful links <p>(These are not hyperlinked because logging in is required)</p>
<p>Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) Blackouts checklist Available from www.stars.org.uk</p>	<p>The checklist gives information and advice on the major reasons for experiencing a blackout and helps the patient prepare for a doctor's appointment. It can also be used by a healthcare professional to guide the history-taking to ensure all the important aspects of the blackout before, during and after the event have been documented.</p>
<p>Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) Medical professionals Available from www.stars.org.uk</p>	<p>The secure area of the STARS website for medical professionals can be accessed by logging in for free and receiving a password. In this area there is information on:</p> <p>Care pathways: Point of care pathways are available for the following areas: rapid access to blackout clinics, GP out of hours and A and E.</p> <p>Please note echocardiography is not mentioned in the NICE guideline. Additionally these pathways highlight rapid access blackout clinics. The NICE guideline does not specifically name such clinics. Where appropriate the guideline recommends referral for specialist cardiovascular assessment (by the most appropriate local service) or referral to a specialist in epilepsy.</p> <p>Publications: This section contains leaflets for healthcare professionals and patients, families and carers. Some of the publications contain content beyond the scope of the NICE guideline. The following publications contain information that may help implement the NICE guideline: Blackouts checklist; Implantable loop recorder; Diagnostic tests for syncope and long QT syndrome; Common causes and preventative advice. Some of the information in these publications discusses the use of tilt tests in diagnosing the underlying cause. The NICE guideline recommends that patients experiencing uncomplicated faint or situational syncope should be advised about possible trigger events and strategies for avoiding them [recommendation number 1.5.4.1]. NICE has not made recommendations about what this advice should contain. This</p>

	<p>section of the STARS website may be useful, but please note that these suggestions are not NICE guidance.</p> <p>UK and international specialists: This section contains the names of UK and international medical professionals with a specialist interest in syncope.</p> <p>Medical articles and further reading: This section provides links to journal articles. At the time of publication, there are 11 articles relating to syncope and initial assessment, diagnosis and onward referral. It is possible that articles do not make recommendations in line with the NICE guideline. Please ensure you are familiar with the NICE guideline before consulting this further reading.</p> <p>Podcasts: This takes you away from the STARS website to heartpodcast.org. Within the physicians rhythm section there are a number of podcasts which fall within the scope of this guideline. Please note a number of them discuss the use of echocardiography and tilt table tests as first-line investigations. These are not recommended by NICE. Please ensure you are familiar with the NICE guideline before listening to these podcasts.</p> <p>The Blackouts checklist can be used by healthcare professionals to guide the history-taking to ensure all the important aspects of the blackout before, during and after the event have been documented.</p> <p>Information in the medical professionals section is updated regularly.</p> <p>Please note: In the NICE guideline, tilt tests are not recommended as a first-line investigation.</p>
<p>Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) Projects and campaigns Available from www.stars.org.uk</p>	<p>The Syncope and Falls in the Elderly (SaFE) web page provides information and advice on syncope for older people, their –families, carers, care workers, medical professionals. There is also a leaflet for medical professionals on this page: Key facts on syncope as a cause of falls – for medical professionals</p>

Resources from other charities and patient-focused organisations

<p>The Cardiomyopathy Association Patient information Available from www.cardiomyopathy.org</p>	<p>This web page provides details for ordering patient information booklets, leaflets and CD-ROMs for patients diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. Although the NICE guideline addresses the management of the blackout rather than the management of the conditions which cause the blackout, such as cardiomyopathy, this link would be helpful to healthcare professionals working with people with this diagnosis and their family and carers.</p>
<p>C-R-Y Medical information C-R-Y produce the information for the SADS website Available from www.c-r-y.org.uk</p>	<p>This section of the website provides detailed information about some of the Electrocardiogram (ECG) abnormalities that the NICE guideline identified as red flags. Although this information has been written for patients, there is a high level of detail and healthcare professionals should first assess the patient's information needs before referring them to this page. The information in this section is useful for healthcare professionals interested in ECG abnormalities. This information can also be found on the Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) Sudden Arrhythmias - what causes SADS? web page.</p>

Resources for patients, families and carers

Document	Relevance
<p>Resources from Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) and Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity</p>	
<p>Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) Diagnosis web page Available from www.stars.org.uk</p>	<p>This section of the website provides information for patients about diagnosing the cause of TLoC. It has a link to the Blackouts checklist, which gives information and advice on the major reasons for experiencing a blackout, helps the patient to prepare for a doctor's appointment, and provides information on what to expect if they have to attend a hospital appointment. The checklist can be downloaded and printed.</p> <p>The web page also provides information about heart rhythm monitoring and tilt tests. Please note that tilt tests are not recommended as a first-line investigation in the NICE guideline.</p>
<p>Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) Treatment options Available from www.stars.org.uk</p>	<p>The majority of the content of this web page, which looks at treatment of the causes of TLoC, is beyond the scope of the NICE guideline, which concentrates on initial assessment, diagnosis and referral to a specialist. However, the section about managing your syncope would be useful to patients who suffer from uncomplicated faints and situational syncope frequently and where this diagnosis has been confirmed by a healthcare professional. Please note that the NICE guideline recommends that patients experiencing an uncomplicated faint or situational syncope should be advised about possible trigger events and strategies for avoiding them [recommendation number 1.5.4.1]. NICE has not made recommendations about what this advice should contain. This section of the STARS website may be helpful, but please note that these suggestions are not NICE guidance.</p>
<p>Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) Patient, family and carer information leaflets Available from www.stars.org.uk</p>	<p>In addition to the resources listed above, further patient information resources are stored in a number of locations on the website. These are:</p> <p>Syncope causes falls in older people Common causes and preventative advice on syncope in older people Bradycardia (slow heart rhythm)</p> <p>Please note that some of these leaflets mention the use of tilt tests in diagnosing the underlying cause of blackouts, but the NICE guideline does not recommended tilt tests as a first-line investigation.</p> <p>The NICE guideline recommends that patients who have an uncomplicated faint or situational syncope should be advised about possible trigger events and strategies for avoiding them [recommendation number 1.5.4.1]. NICE has not made recommendations about what this advice should contain. This section of the STARS website may be helpful, but please note that these suggestions are not NICE guidance.</p>

<p>Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity Patient area</p> <p>Available from www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk</p>	<p>This web page contains a link to a section called What is an arrhythmia?, which highlights that blackouts can be a symptom of an arrhythmia. There is also a link to a diagnostic tools section, which identifies the investigations that may be used to diagnose an arrhythmia, and provides a palpitation checklist and an arrhythmia checklist. Both checklists help the patient and doctor determine if the patient is suffering from an arrhythmia and question whether the patient has experienced a blackout.</p> <p>The other subsections within the Patient area are concerned with treating arrhythmias and living with arrhythmias. These are beyond the scope of the NICE guideline, but may be useful for patients who are suspected of having, or who have recently been diagnosed with an arrhythmia.</p>
<p>Resources from other societies, charities and patient organisations</p>	
<p>British Heart Foundation Tests for heart conditions</p> <p>Available from www.bhf.org.uk</p>	<p>This web page provides access for downloading a booklet on tests for heart conditions. Some of these tests are mentioned in the NICE guideline. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ECG, including 24-hour ECG recording • cardiac event recorders, including implantable loop recorder • tilt table test. <p>The NICE guideline does not recommend tilt testing as first-line investigation.</p>
<p>Heart podcasts.org Patients</p> <p>Available from www.heartpodcast.org</p>	<p>This website provides podcasts from a variety of patients that aim to inform patients about the latest developments and insights into heart rhythm disorders, their diagnosis and their treatment. There are a number of podcasts concerning the treatment of arrhythmias (experiences of an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) or pacemaker). These are concerned with treatment of the arrhythmia and are beyond the scope of the NICE guideline. There are, however, a number of podcasts about implantable event recorders (insertable cardiac monitor) which the guideline recommends for some patients with certain types of syncope. Patients who have been advised to have such a device may find these podcasts helpful.</p>
<p>C-R-Y Cardiac tests</p> <p>C-R-Y produce the information for the SADS website</p> <p>Available from www.c-r-y.org.uk</p>	<p>This web page explains the possible tests to identify if members of the family of someone who has died of SADS are at risk. Some of these tests are mentioned in the NICE guideline. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECG • Exercise test • Holter (also ambulatory ECG in the guideline) • Event recorder (called external event recorder in the guideline) • Reveal device (called in implantable event recorder in the guideline) • Tilt-table testing. <p>This information can also be found on the Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) Tests web page.</p> <p>The NICE guideline does not recommend tilt testing as first-line investigation</p>

<p>C-R-Y General information on cardiac screening Available from www.c-r-y.org.uk</p>	<p>This web page discusses screening for members of families in which someone has died from SADS. It also recommends that if someone has symptoms of fainting and blackouts they should visit their GP for screening. The website advises that this would be an ECG and echocardiography. The NICE guideline does not recommend echocardiography for those with blackouts, but it does recommend an ECG.</p>
<p>Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) Technical terms Available from www.sads.org.uk</p>	<p>A number of the terms appearing in this section are also mentioned in the NICE guideline. The NICE guideline contains a glossary, but this web page may help if more information is needed.</p>
<p>NHS Choices Epilepsy Available from www.nhs.uk</p>	<p>This website provides information about epilepsy symptoms, causes, diagnosis, treatment, recommendations, complications and prevention. The diagnosis section is particularly relevant to the NICE guideline because it highlights that the description about what happened during the event is key to the diagnosis. This website advocates that the patient takes a friend who witnessed the event with them to the doctor so they can describe what they saw.</p>
<p>Epilepsy Action Getting a diagnosis Available from www.epilepsy.org.uk</p>	<p>This website provides information about diagnosis of epilepsy. It details what an electroencephalogram (EEG) and identifies the questions the doctor may ask in order to gain a diagnosis. The sections about CT, MRI, other scans and DTI are beyond the scope of the NICE guideline which does not discuss the role of these scans.</p>
<p>The national society for epilepsy Diagnosis Available from www.epilepsysociety.org.uk</p>	<p>This website provides information about the diagnosis of epilepsy. Within the how epilepsy is diagnosed link people can find information about the type of information it would be helpful to tell the doctor. It acknowledges this information is likely to come from a witness. Within the tests link there is information about EEG's and ECG's. There are further tests described in this section which are beyond the scope of the NICE guideline.</p>
<p>The British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology My EEG investigation Available from www.bscn.org.uk</p>	<p>This web page provides information about what to expect when having an electroencephalogram (EEG). It explains the possible reasons for an EEG. It highlights that it is important to realise that not everyone who has a seizure or a blackout needs to have an EEG. This web page also highlights the importance of getting a good description from the person who experienced the blackout and anyone witnessing it and how this will help with diagnosis. This is all in line with the NICE guideline.</p>

Useful organisations

- Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) UK registered charitable organisation, www.stars.org.uk: STARS works with people, their families and medical professionals to ensure that anyone presenting with unexplained loss of consciousness receives the correct diagnosis, the appropriate treatment, informed support and sign posting to the appropriate medical professional. This is very much the focus of the NICE guideline, which defines the appropriate pathways for the initial assessment, diagnosis and specialist referral of people who have had TLoC. Key resources on the STARS website for healthcare professionals, patients and their families and carers are listed in this guide to resources.
- Arrhythmia Alliance, The Heart Rhythm Charity, www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk: A UK registered charity promoting better understanding, diagnosis, treatment and quality of life for people with cardiac arrhythmias. This is very much the focus of the NICE guideline which defines the appropriate pathways for the initial assessment, diagnosis and specialist referral of people who have had TLoC. Key resources on this website for healthcare professionals, patients and their families and carers are listed in this guide to resources.
- Cardiac Risk in the Young (C-R-Y), www.c-r-y.org.uk: CRY was founded in 1995 to raise awareness of conditions that can lead to Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD); Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS, SADS).
- Epilepsy Bereaved, www.sudep.org: Epilepsy Bereaved is committed to preventing Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (also known as SUDEP) and other epilepsy deaths through research, awareness and influencing change. Their website provides information and support for healthcare professionals, patients and their families and carers mainly when the diagnosis of epilepsy has been made or when a sudden unexpected death in epilepsy has occurred. This is beyond the scope of the NICE guideline but the home page link has been included here because epilepsy can cause TLoC.

Resources from NICE

Resource	Relevance
<p><i>The guideline</i></p> <p>'Transient loss of consciousness ('blackouts') management in adults and young people', NICE clinical guideline 109 (2010). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG109</p>	
The NICE version	This version provides all of the recommendations.
The full guideline	This version provides all the recommendations, details of how they were developed, and summaries of the evidence they were based on. This was produced by the National Clinical Guideline Centre, who were commissioned by NICE to work on this guideline.
The quick reference guide	This is a summary of the recommendations for healthcare professionals.
'Understanding NICE guidance'	An explanation of the recommendations for patients, their families and carers.
<p><i>Implementation resources</i></p>	
Costing template	<p>This costing template will help estimate the local costs and savings involved in implementing the recommendations in the NICE guideline.</p> <p>This tool will be useful for those responsible for planning and commissioning services.</p>
Costing statement	<p>This costing statement details the likely costs and savings involved in implementing the recommendations in the NICE guideline.</p> <p>This tool will be useful for those responsible for planning and commissioning services.</p>
Slide set	<p>This slide set provides a framework for discussing the NICE guideline with a variety of audiences and can assist in local dissemination of the guidance. The presentation includes a 'questions for discussion' slide, which can be used to increase opportunities for participation by, and interaction with, an audience.</p> <p>This slide set includes an interactive algorithm, which will allow audiences to view all aspects of the care pathway for a person presenting with TLoC.</p>
Ambulance service slide set	This special slide set and 'notes for presenters' provides a framework for discussing this NICE guideline with ambulance staff and can assist in local dissemination of the guidance. It focuses on recommendations for initial assessment, transfer to the emergency department and other arrangements of people who have experienced TLoC.

Podcast to accompany ambulance service slide set	<p>This podcast with John Pawelec, a paramedic clinical tutor at Yorkshire Ambulance Service, discusses the implications for ambulance services of the NICE guideline.</p> <p>This podcast complements the slide set for ambulance staff.</p>
Audit support	<p>This audit support provides audit criteria, including exceptions and definitions as well as data collection tools to help make auditing the care of people with TLoC easier.</p>
Baseline assessment tool	<p>This is an Excel spreadsheet that can be used by organisations to identify their current position in relation to the practice recommended in the NICE guideline. The tool will also help them plan activity that will help to meet the recommendations.</p>
How to change practice: understand, identify and overcome barriers to change	<p>This is a guide to help managers and clinicians influence changes in practice. It provides practical suggestions based on evidence and experience to help put NICE guidance into practice.</p>
ERNIE	<p>The ERNIE (Evaluation and review of NICE implementation evidence) database is a source of information on the implementation and uptake of NICE guidance. It includes internal reports on the uptake of NICE guidance, classifies whether practice is in line with the guidance and describes external literature on the implementation of the guidance.</p>
Shared learning database	<p>The shared learning database gives examples of good practice from the NHS and partner organisations. If you would like to learn from other people's experiences or share your own experience of implementing this guideline with others, please visit the shared learning database on our website. All submissions will be entered for the annual NICE Shared learning award.</p>

Related NICE guidance

Document	Relevance
<p>Unstable angina and NSTEMI: the early management of unstable angina and non-ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction. NICE clinical guideline 94 (2010). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG94</p>	<p>This clinical guideline updates and replaces recommendations for the early management of unstable angina and NSTEMI from NICE technology appraisal guidance 47 and 80. It offers evidence-based advice on the care and treatment of adults with unstable angina or NSTEMI from the time of diagnosis to leaving hospital. Unstable angina is a type of recurring chest pain, and NSTEMI (which stands for non-ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction) is a type of heart attack.</p>
<p>Stroke: diagnosis and initial management of acute stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA). NICE clinical guideline 68 (2008). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG68</p>	<p>The advice in the NICE guideline covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how healthcare professionals should recognise the symptoms of a stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA) and make a diagnosis quickly • when people should have a brain scan and other types of scan • specialist care for people in the first 2 weeks after a stroke • drug treatments for people who have had a stroke • surgery for people who have had a stroke. <p>Responsibility for undertaking a review of this guidance at the designated review date has passed to the National Clinical Guideline Centre.</p>

<p>Head injury: triage, assessment, investigation and early management of head injury in infants, children and adults. NICE clinical guideline 56 (2007). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG56</p>	<p>The advice in the NICE clinical guideline covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what should happen before someone with a head injury reaches hospital • who should go to hospital • the checks and tests that should be carried out and the action that should be taken once the test results are known • the care people should receive if they have been discharged from hospital within 48 hours • the symptoms that healthcare professionals should watch out for after a head injury • how information should be exchanged between different healthcare professionals • the information and advice that should be made available to people with head injuries and their family or carers. <p>It does not specifically look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the investigations or types of surgery that may be needed.
<p>Anxiety: management of anxiety (panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia, and generalised anxiety disorder) in adults in primary, secondary and community care (amended). NICE clinical guideline 22 (2007). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG22</p>	<p>The NICE clinical guideline on anxiety covers the care of adults who have panic disorder (with or without agoraphobia) or generalised anxiety disorder. The recommendations address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diagnosis • medication • psychological treatments • self-care. <p>The guideline does not cover the care of people with other anxiety disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder or obsessive compulsive disorder, which will be addressed in separate guidelines.</p> <p>The guideline does not cover the care of people who have both anxiety and depression. NICE has also issued a guideline on depression.</p> <p>Responsibility for undertaking a review of this guidance at the designated review date has passed to the National Clinical Guideline Centre.</p>
<p>Atrial fibrillation: the management of atrial fibrillation. NICE clinical guideline 36 (2006). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG36</p>	<p>The NICE clinical guideline on atrial fibrillation covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the tests that should be used to diagnose atrial fibrillation (AF) • the treatment people can expect to be offered depending on the type of AF they have, including AF that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – comes on suddenly (acute-onset AF) – lasts longer than a week or doesn't stop without treatment (persistent AF)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – is more longstanding (permanent AF) – comes and goes (paroxysmal AF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the treatment people can expect if they have AF then have a stroke. <p>It doesn't specifically look at the treatment of AF for people who are under 18 years of age, or whose AF is caused by heart disease that they were born with.</p> <p>Responsibility for undertaking a review of this guidance at the designated review date has passed to the National Clinical Guideline Centre.</p>
<p>Falls: the assessment and prevention of falls in older people. NICE clinical guideline 21 (2004). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG21</p>	<p>The NICE clinical guideline on falls covers older people who live in the community, either at home, in a retirement complex, or in a residential or nursing home. In this guideline, an older person is defined as someone who is aged 65 or older.</p> <p>The guideline doesn't cover older people who are bed bound or who are in hospital for reasons other than treatment after a fall. Also, it does not look at the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, which will be covered in another NICE guideline.</p> <p>Responsibility for undertaking a review of this guidance at the designated review date has passed to the National Clinical Guideline Centre.</p>
<p>The epilepsies: the diagnosis and management of the epilepsies in adults and children in primary and secondary care. NICE clinical guideline 20 (2004). Available from www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG20</p> <p>An update for this guideline is expected to be published in March 2011.</p>	<p>The NICE clinical guideline on epilepsy covers the diagnosis, treatment and management of epilepsy in children, young people, adults and older people. The guideline makes recommendations for treatment and care provided by GPs and by specialists.</p> <p>It also makes recommendations about when someone should be referred to a specialist centre (a clinic or unit with particular experience and expertise in investigations or treatment of epilepsy that is difficult to diagnose or treat – sometimes called a tertiary centre).</p> <p>Special considerations concerning the care of women with epilepsy and people with learning disabilities are covered.</p> <p>Responsibility for undertaking a review of this guidance at the designated review date has passed to the National Clinical Guideline Centre.</p>

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