

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Guideline scope

January 2025

We have updated this scope to clarify that technology appraisal guidance will be included where relevant. For further details, see [Bringing our guidance together by topic](#).

Type 2 diabetes in adults: management (Medicines update)

This guideline will update the NICE guideline on type 2 diabetes in adults: management (NG28).

NICE is updating its diabetes guidelines. NICE will update the guideline on type 2 diabetes in adults: management (NG28) as a series of updates. This scope is about updating the section on drug treatment. A separate scope will be developed to define the update of the section on [insulin-based treatments](#).

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

This guideline will also be used to update the NICE [quality standard](#) for diabetes in adults.

1 Why the update is needed

Topic experts advised us on areas for the update. The previous update of the guideline focussed on the cardiovascular benefits of drug treatment. In this update, the drug treatment section will be updated in full with the exception of the recommendations on [insulin based treatments and insulin delivery](#).

2 Who the guideline is for

This guideline is for:

FINAL

- healthcare professionals in the NHS
- commissioners and providers of NHS healthcare services
- people with diagnosed type 2 diabetes, their families and carers.

It may also be relevant for voluntary organisations and patient support groups.

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](#).

Equality considerations

NICE has carried out an [equality impact assessment](#) during scoping. The assessment:

- lists equality issues identified, and how they have been addressed
- explains why any groups are excluded from the scope.

The guideline will look at inequalities relating to age, disability and ethnicity.

3 What the updated guideline will cover

3.1 Who is the focus?

Groups that will be covered

Adults (aged 18 years and over) with type 2 diabetes.

Specific consideration will be given to people:

- with moderate or severe frailty
- with early onset type 2 diabetes (diagnosed before 40 years of age)
- with type 2 diabetes first diagnosed at age 80 or over
- with long-term conditions for example heart failure, other cardiovascular diseases, chronic kidney disease or non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
- at high risk of developing cardiovascular disease
- in specific ethnic groups

FINAL

- with severe mental illness
- with cognitive impairment, for example those with dementia
- with a learning disability
- with obesity.

Groups that will not be covered

People who are planning pregnancy or are already pregnant (this group is covered by the [NICE guideline on diabetes in pregnancy: management from preconception to the postnatal period \[NG3\]](#)).

3.2 Settings

Settings that will be covered

- All settings where NHS-funded care is provided.

3.3 Activities, services or aspects of care

Key areas that will be covered in this update

In this update, we will look at evidence on drug treatments for managing type 2 diabetes. We will consider making new recommendations or updating existing recommendations in this area only.

Note that guideline recommendations will normally fall within licensed indications; exceptionally, and only if clearly supported by evidence, use outside a licensed indication may be recommended. The guideline will assume that prescribers will use a medicine's summary of product characteristics to inform decisions made with individual patients.

Changes to the guideline

For the [section on drug treatment](#), we are reviewing all recommendations apart from the ones under the headings 'insulin-based treatments' and 'insulin delivery'.

In the section on managing complications, recommendations for people with chronic kidney disease relating to SGLT2 inhibitors may change as part of this update, but the update will not cover angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or

FINAL

angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) and so parts of the relevant recommendations will be retained.

Recommendations in areas that are being retained from the existing guideline may be edited to ensure that they meet current editorial standards and reflect the current policy and practice context.

Related NICE guidance

NICE guidelines

- [Overweight and obesity management](#) (2025) NICE guideline NG246
- [Diabetic retinopathy](#) (2024) NICE guideline NG242
- [Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification](#) (2023) NICE guideline NG238
- [Diabetes \(type 1 and type 2\) in children and young people: diagnosis and management](#) (2023) NICE guideline NG18
- [Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and management](#) (2022) NICE guideline NG136
- [Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management](#) (2022) NICE guideline NG17
- [Chronic kidney disease: assessment and management](#) (2021) NICE guideline NG203
- [Diabetes in pregnancy: management from preconception to the postnatal period](#) (2020) NICE guideline NG3
- [Peripheral arterial disease: diagnosis and management](#) (2020) NICE guideline CG147
- [Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management](#) (2019) NICE guideline NG19
- [Type 2 diabetes: prevention in people at high risk](#) (2017) NICE guideline PH38
- [Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease \(NAFLD\): assessment and management](#) (2016) NICE guideline NG49 (currently being updated, publication expected [TBC])
- [Multimorbidity: clinical assessment and management](#) (2016) NICE guideline NG56
- [Preventing type 2 diabetes: population and community-level interventions](#) (2011) NICE guideline PH35

NICE technology appraisals

Technology appraisal guidance will be included where relevant. For further details, see [Bringing our guidance together by topic](#).

- [Tirzepatide for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2023) NICE technology appraisal guidance 924
- [Ertugliflozin with metformin and a dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2019) NICE technology appraisal guidance 583
- [Ertugliflozin as monotherapy or with metformin for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2019) NICE technology appraisal guidance 572
- [Dapagliflozin in triple therapy for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2016) NICE technology appraisal guidance 418
- [Canagliflozin, dapagliflozin and empagliflozin as monotherapies for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2016) NICE technology appraisal guidance 390
- [Empagliflozin in combination therapy for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2015) NICE technology appraisal guidance 336
- [Canagliflozin in combination therapy for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2014) NICE technology appraisal guidance 315
- [Dapagliflozin in combination therapy for treating type 2 diabetes](#) (2013) NICE technology appraisal guidance 288

NICE guidance that will be updated by this guideline

- [Type 2 diabetes in adults: management](#) (2022) NICE guideline NG28

NICE guidance about the experience of people using NHS services

NICE has produced the following guidance on the experience of people using the NHS. This guideline will not include additional recommendations on these topics unless there are specific issues related to type 2 diabetes in adults:

- [Shared decision making](#) (2021) NICE guideline NG197
- [Medicines optimisation](#) (2015) NICE guideline NG5
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012) NICE guideline CG138
- [Service user experience in adult mental health](#) (2011) NICE guideline CG136
- [Medicines adherence](#) (2009) NICE guideline CG76

3.4 Economic aspects

We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations. We will review the economic evidence and carry out economic analyses, using an NHS and personal social services perspective.

The model used in the February 2022 version of the guideline will be updated and expanded for this guideline update – see the [health economic model report](#). The treatment effects in the revised model will be based upon the clinical outcomes from the new update's systematic review. Results will be stratified by:

- line of treatment and
- specific risk groups (for example people with existing cardiovascular disease).

It is intended that this revised model will also be used or adapted for future NICE guidance on medicines for type 2 diabetes.

3.5 Key issues and draft questions

While writing the scope for this updated guideline, we have identified the following key issue and draft questions related to it:

1 Drug treatment

1.1 For different population subgroups, which individual or combinations of medicines are most clinically and cost effective as initial treatment to manage type 2 diabetes? This should include, but may not be limited to, medicines within the following classes:

- biguanides
- DPP-4 inhibitors
- GLP-1 receptor agonists
- sulfonylureas
- SGLT2 inhibitors and
- thiazolidinediones.

1.2 Which medicines are most clinically and cost effective for managing type 2 diabetes when current treatment has not given adequate response? This should cover:

- which medicines to use, including, but not limited to, medicines within the following classes: biguanides, DPP-4 inhibitors, GLP-1 receptor agonist, sulfonylureas, SGLT2 inhibitors, and thiazolidinediones
- approaches to optimising treatment (including combination treatment, switching to different therapies, de-escalation and stopping previous therapies), and
- consideration of different population subgroups.

See the section on NICE guidance that will be incorporated into the guideline.

The key issues and draft questions will be used to develop more detailed review questions, which will guide the systematic review of the literature.

3.6 Main outcomes

The main outcomes that may be considered when searching for and assessing the evidence are:

- health related quality of life
- all-cause mortality
- cardiovascular mortality
- major cardiovascular events (for example non-fatal stroke, non-fatal myocardial infarction, unstable angina, hospitalisation for heart failure)
- renal events (for example acute kidney injury, persistent signs of worsening kidney disease, development of end stage kidney disease, death from renal cause)
- serious adverse events (for example cardiac arrhythmia, diabetic ketoacidosis, falls requiring hospitalisation)
- remission
- changes in HbA1c
- changes in weight or body mass index (BMI)

FINAL

- frequency, timing (for example, at night) and severity of hypoglycaemic episodes

4 NICE quality standards

4.1 NICE quality standards

NICE quality standards that may need to be revised or updated when this guideline is published

- [Diabetes in adults](#) (2016) NICE quality standard 6

Further information

This is the final scope, which takes into account comments from registered stakeholders during consultation. This scope was updated in January 2025.

The guideline is expected to be published in July 2025.

You can follow progress of the [guideline](#).

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

© NICE [2025]. Subject to [Notice of rights](#).