

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## Scope for guideline update (starting 2025)

### Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD): assessment and management

NICE is updating its [guideline on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: assessment and management](#) (NG49).

As part of this update, we will use the term 'metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease' (MASLD) instead of 'non-alcoholic fatty liver disease' (NAFLD). We will also be using the term 'metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis' (MASH) instead of 'non-alcoholic steatohepatitis' (NASH). These wording changes are being made because the terms NAFLD and NASH are now seen as inaccurate and potentially stigmatising, and concerns about their use have been raised by stakeholders and others in the healthcare system. This also reflects a decision from a multinational consensus group, made up of clinical experts and patient advocates, to adopt the terms MASLD and MASH.

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

### Who the guideline update covers

The current guideline covers all children, young people and adults with suspected or confirmed MASLD. The guideline update will only cover people with confirmed MASLD.

### Equality considerations

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

### Settings

The current guideline covers all settings where NHS healthcare is provided or commissioned. The settings covered by the guideline update will remain the same.

NICE guideline update: Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease  
FINAL scope

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

We will make new recommendations or update existing recommendations on:

- identifying people with liver fibrosis
- monitoring MASLD in children, young people and adults
- lifestyle modifications for MASLD.

**Table: What NICE plans to do for each area of the current guideline**

| Area in the current guideline                            | What NICE plans to do   |
|--|---|
| Identifying NAFLD in higher-risk groups                  | Stand down recommendations 1.1.1 to 1.1.3.  |
| Diagnosing NAFLD in children and young people            | Stand down recommendations 1.1.4 to 1.1.7.  |
| Identifying people with advanced liver fibrosis          | Review evidence (see draft review questions 1 to 3) and replace existing recommendations in the section on identifying people with liver fibrosis (recommendations 1.2.1 to 1.2.8), if appropriate.   |
| Monitoring adults and young people over 16 for cirrhosis | Retain recommendation 1.2.9.  |
| Extra-hepatic conditions                                 | No new evidence review for recommendations 1.2.10 and 1.2.11: retain recommendations.   |
| Lifestyle modifications for NAFLD                        | No new evidence reviews for recommendations 1.2.12 to 1.2.14: retain recommendations.<br>Review evidence (see draft review questions 4 and 5) and replace existing recommendations 1.2.15 and 1.2.16, if appropriate.   |
| People with NAFLD who are taking statins                 | No new evidence reviews for recommendations 1.3.1 and 1.3.2: retain recommendations.  |
| Pharmacological treatment                                | Stand down recommendations in the section pharmacological treatment (recommendations 1.4.1 to 1.4.9). This is because vitamin E and pioglitazone are not routinely prescribed for advanced liver fibrosis due to concerns over side effects and long-term safety.<br>NICE technology appraisal guidance will be included where relevant. See the section on NICE technology appraisals. |

Recommendations that are being retained from the current guideline may be revised to update language, to reflect current policy or to ensure consistency.

Note that guideline recommendations for medicines 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.

## **Draft review questions**

We have identified 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 also be used to develop more detailed review questions, which will guide the systematic review of the literature:

### **Accuracy of tests for diagnosing liver fibrosis**

1. What is the diagnostic accuracy of assessment tools for identifying the degree of liver fibrosis and presence of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) in children, young people and adults with a diagnosis of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD)?
2. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of assessment tools for identifying the degree of liver fibrosis and presence of MASH in children, young people and adults with a diagnosis of MASLD?

### **Monitoring**

3. What is the most clinically and cost-effective monitoring strategy (frequency and tests used) for children, young people and adults with MASLD?

### **Dietary supplements**

4. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of dietary supplements for children, young people and adults with MASLD?

### **Alcohol consumption**

5. What is the relationship between alcohol consumption and MASLD outcomes?

## 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, using an NHS and personal social services perspective.

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

- [FibroScan for assessing liver fibrosis and cirrhosis outside secondary and specialist care](#) (2023) NICE guideline DG48
- [MRI-based technologies for assessing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease](#) (2023) NICE guideline DG50
- [Liver disease](#) (2017) NICE quality standard QS152

## NICE technology appraisals

Current technology appraisals in progress are:

- [Resmetirom for treating non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and liver fibrosis](#).  
Expected publication date: TBC
- [Semaglutide for treating moderate to advanced liver fibrosis \(without cirrhosis\) metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis with liver fibrosis](#). Expected publication date: TBC

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

## Further information

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](#).

The guideline update is expected to be published in December 2026.

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

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

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