NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Scope for guideline update (starting 2025)

Blood transfusion: alternatives to blood transfusion for people having surgery – tranexamic acid

02/09/2025

NICE is updating its guideline on blood transfusion NG24. The guideline was originally published in November 2015. It was developed as set out in the original final scope.

New evidence suggests the recommendations on tranexamic acid may need updating.

The update will be developed using the methods and processes in developing NICE guidelines: the manual, including the interim principles for methods and processes for supporting digital living guideline recommendations.

Who the guideline update covers

The update will cover the same groups as the current guideline. These are:

- adults
- young people
- children.

Equality considerations

A new equality and health inequalities assessment impact has been completed.

The original equality impact assessment for the blood transfusion guideline details the equality issues identified during the original development of the guideline and how they were handled. The same issues will be considered as part of the update.

Settings

This guideline will cover all healthcare settings in which surgical care is provided or commissioned.

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

This update will explore whether tranexamic acid should be used in people undergoing surgery who are expected to lose less blood than those mentioned in recommendations 1.1.5 to 1.1.6.

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

This guideline update will not cover any other part of NG24.

Review questions

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

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

The efficacy and safety of tranexamic acid

1. Is tranexamic acid clinically and cost-effective in reducing the number of blood transfusions required and length of hospital stay in people with anticipated minor blood loss from surgery compared to placebo or no additional treatment?

2. What is the safety of tranexamic acid in the short-term prevention of surgical bleeding?

Economic aspects

We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations.

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

- Blood transfusion (November 2015) NICE guideline NG24
- Blood transfusion (December 2016) NICE quality standard QS138

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.

Recommendations we plan to retain

We will not be reviewing the evidence on the following:

- alternatives to blood transfusion (other than tranexamic acid)
- red blood cells
- platelets
- fresh frozen plasma
- cryoprecipitate
- prothrombin complex concentrate
- patient safety
- patient information
- blood transfusions for patients with acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

We plan to retain the recommendations in these areas, although they may be revised to update language, reflect current policy or practice, and to ensure consistency.

Further information

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

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.