

## **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE**

### **Scope for guideline update (starting 2025)**

#### **Neonatal infection: antibiotics for prevention and treatment**

NICE is updating its guideline on neonatal infection: antibiotics for prevention and treatment (NG195).

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

#### **Who the guideline update covers**

The update on prelabour rupture of membranes (PROM) as a risk factor for early onset neonatal infection will focus on women, trans men and non-binary people with prelabour rupture of membranes (PROM) at term (37 to 42 weeks' gestation) with singleton pregnancies, as well as babies born at term following PROM.

The update on oral antibiotics for early onset neonatal infection will focus on term and late preterm babies (35 weeks' gestation or more) with suspected early onset neonatal infection, and their parents or carers.

See the [2020 guideline scope](#) for details on the groups that are included and excluded in the guideline.

#### **Equality considerations**

An equality and health inequalities impact assessment for this update has been completed.

#### **Settings**

This guideline will cover all settings where NHS-funded care is provided.

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

We will consider making recommendations or updating existing recommendations on:

- prelabour rupture of membranes at term as a risk factor for early onset neonatal infection
- switching from intravenous to oral antibiotics for babies with suspected early onset neonatal infection.

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

Recommendations in [NICE's guidelines on intrapartum care](#) and [inducing labour](#) that relate to prelabour rupture of membranes may also be amended as needed.

## 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.

1. What is the risk of early onset neonatal infection at different time intervals between prelabour rupture of membranes (PROM) and birth for singleton pregnancies at term?
2. What is the impact of switching from intravenous to oral antibiotics for babies with suspected early onset bacterial infection on morbidity and mortality, family outcomes, cost and resource use, and the views, experiences, and perceptions of healthcare professionals, parents or carers and families?

## Economic aspects

We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations. For this review question (or key areas in the scope), we will review the economic evidence and, where appropriate, carry out economic modelling and analyses, to assess the value for money (cost effectiveness) of interventions. This will be done using an NHS and personal social services perspective.

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

- [Intrapartum care](#) (published 2023, updated 2025) NICE guideline NG235
- [Inducing labour](#) (published 2021) NICE guideline NG207
- [Fetal monitoring in labour](#) (published 2022) NICE guideline NG229
- [Suspected sepsis in under 16s: recognition, diagnosis and early management](#) (published 2025) NICE guideline NG254
- [Neonatal infection](#) (published 2014, updated 2024). NICE quality standard QS75

## Further information

The guideline update is expected to be published in May 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](#).

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