

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Scope for guideline update (starting 2026)

Suspected sepsis in people aged 16 or over: recognition, assessment and early management

NICE is updating its guideline on [suspected sepsis in people aged 16 or over \(NG253\)](#). The update will be developed using the methods and processes in [developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#).

Who the guideline update covers

The update will cover the same group as the current guideline, that is, people aged 16 or over who are not and have not recently been pregnant.

Equality considerations

The [equality and health inequalities assessment \(EHIA\) for the current guideline](#) will be updated to cover procalcitonin testing.

Settings

Emergency department and In-hospital settings

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

We will consider making new recommendations on procalcitonin testing to guide clinical decision making in people aged 16 or over who are not and have not been recently pregnant* with suspected sepsis and amend existing recommendation where impacted.

*Someone is considered to have recently been pregnant:

- in the 24 hours following a termination of pregnancy or miscarriage that occurred before 24 weeks gestation

- for 4 weeks after a termination of pregnancy or miscarriage that occurred after 24 weeks gestation
- for 4 weeks after giving birth.

Review questions

We have developed the following review question. It 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.

Procalcitonin

1. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of using serum procalcitonin measurement alongside standard care to support decision making about treatment for suspected sepsis in people aged 16 or over, compared to standard clinical practice alone?

Economic aspects

We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations. For each 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 is done using an NHS perspective.

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

- [Suspected sepsis in over 16s](#) (2025) NICE Quality standard QS213
- [Procalcitonin testing for diagnosing and monitoring sepsis](#) (2015) NICE HealthTech guidance HTG386
- [Suspected sepsis in under 16s](#) (2025) NICE guideline NG254

- [Suspected sepsis in pregnant or recently pregnant people](#) (2025) NICE guideline NG255

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](#).

Further information

The guideline update is expected to be published in July 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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