NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND   
CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1. Quality standard title

Suspected neurological conditions: recognition and referral.

1. Introduction
   * 1. NICE quality standards

NICE quality standards are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care.

The standards are derived from high-quality guidance, such as that from NICE or [accredited](http://www.nice.org.uk/About/What-we-do/Accreditation) by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with health, public health and social care practitioners, their partners and service users. Information on priority areas, people's experience of using services, safety issues, equality and cost impact are considered during the development process.

NICE quality standards are central to supporting the government's vision for a health and social care system that is focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for people who use services, as detailed in the [Health and Social Care Act (2012)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted).

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the [NICE website](http://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/Developing-NICE-quality-standards).

* + 1. This topic overview

This topic overview describes core elements of the quality standard. These include the population and topic to be covered, key source guidance to be used to underpin potential quality statements, any related quality standards, published current practice information and national or routine indicators and performance measures.

1. This quality standard

This quality standard is expected to publish in July 2020.

* + 1. Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover the initial assessment of symptoms and signs that might indicate a neurological condition in non-specialist settings. It covers the indications for referral to specialist assessment and care, including referral for people with existing neurological conditions. The quality standard will cover children, young people and adults.

* + 1. Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited sources)

### Primary source

* [Suspected neurological conditions: recognition and referral](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng127) (2019) NICE guideline NG127

### Other sources that may be used

* Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2017) [Stroke in childhood: clinical guideline for diagnosis, management and rehabilitation](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/stroke-childhood-clinical-guideline-diagnosis-management-rehabilitation)
* Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health [(2015, revised 2019)](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-04/2015_dnc_-_full_clinical_guideline_0.pdf) [The management of children and young people with an acute decrease in conscious level: a nationally developed evidence-based guideline for practitioners (update](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/management-children-young-people-acute-decrease-conscious-level-clinical-guideline))

### Key policy documents, reports and national audits

Relevant policy documents, reports and national audits will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

* Department of Health and Social Care (2019) [The UK strategy for rare diseases: 2019 update to the Implementation Plan for England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-strategy-for-rare-diseases-2019-update-to-the-implementation-plan-for-england)
* Getting it Right First Time (2019) [Spinal Services](https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/spinal-services-report/)
* NHS Rightcare (2019) [Progressive neurology conditions toolkit](https://www.england.nhs.uk/rightcare/products/pathways/progressive-neurological-conditions-toolkit/)
* The Neurological Alliance (2019) [Neuro Numbers 2019](https://www.neural.org.uk/resource_library/neuro-numbers-2019/)
* The Neurological Alliance (2019) [Neuro-Patience: still waiting for improvements in treatment and care](https://www.neural.org.uk/resource_library/neuro-patience/)
* NHS England (2018) [Service specification: Neurointerventional Services for Acute Ischaemic & Haemorrhagic Stroke](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/service-specification-neurointerventional-services-for-acute-ischaemic-haemorrhagic-stroke/)
* The Neurological Alliance (2017) [Parity of esteem for people affected by neurological conditions](https://www.neural.org.uk/resource_library/parity-of-esteem/)
* Public Health England (2017) [Neurology data and analysis](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neurology-data-and-analysis-a-guide-for-health-professionals)
* Association of British Neurologists (2016) [Neurology commissioning toolkit: guidance for locally commissioned neurology services in England](https://www.theabn.org/page/abn_publications)
* National Audit Office (2015) [Services for people with neurological conditions: progress review](https://www.nao.org.uk/report/services-for-people-with-neurological-conditions-progress-review/)
* Public Health England (2015, 2011) [Atlas of Variation](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/atlas-of-variation): Neurological topic
  + 1. Related NICE quality standards

In March 2012, the Department of Health and Social Care referred a library of quality standard topics for the NHS to NICE for development.

This quality standard will be developed in the context of all topics in the NICE [library of quality standards](http://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/Developing-NICE-quality-standards-/Quality-standards-topic-library). Suspected neurological is relevant to a wide range of conditions.

1. Existing indicators

NHS England Analytical Service (2016) [CCG data for Neurological focus pack - indicators for Neurological conditions and chronic pain series (‘Data used in the 2016 Neurology, Respiratory and CVD focus packs and tools’ file)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/rightcare/products/ccg-data-packs/focus-packs/): multiple indicators.

See the NICE website for more information about [NICE quality standards](http://www.nice.org.uk/standards-and-indicators) and the [progress of this quality standard](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10082).

© NICE 2019 All rights reserved. Subject to [Notice of rights](https://www.nice.org.uk/terms-and-conditions#notice-of-rights).