NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND   
CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1. Quality standard title

Abortion care.

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 August 2020.

* + 1. Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover care for women of any age (including girls and young women under 18) who request an abortion.

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

### Primary source

* [Abortion care](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng140) (2019) NICE guideline NG140

### 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) [Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2018](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-2018)
* Public Health England (2017) [Sexual Health, Reproductive Health and HIV: A Review of Commissioning](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-health-reproductive-health-and-hiv-commissioning-review)
* Department of Health and Social Care (2014) [Guidance in Relation to Requirements of the Abortion Act 1967](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-doctors-on-compliance-with-the-abortion-act)
* Department of Health and Social Care (2014) [Procedures for the Approval of Independent Sector Places for the Termination of Pregnancy (Abortion)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-procedures-for-the-approval-of-independent-sector-places-published)
* Department of Health and Social Care (2013) [A Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-framework-for-sexual-health-improvement-in-england)
  + 1. Related NICE quality standards

### Published

* [Sexual health](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs178) (2019) NICE quality standard 178
* [Contraception](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs129) (2016) NICE quality standard 129
* [Patient experience in adult NHS services](http://guidance.nice.org.uk/QS15) (2012) NICE quality standard 15

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](http://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/Developing-NICE-quality-standards-/Quality-standards-topic-library) on the NICE website.

1. Existing indicators

* NHS Digital [Compendium-Abortions](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/clinical-indicators/compendium-of-population-health-indicators/compendium-public-health/current/abortions): Abortions by gestational age; Abortions performed in the NHS and privately; Abortions, crude rate; Abortions, crude rate by maternal age group; Total period abortion rate; Total period abortion rate as % of the potential fertility rate
* Public Health England [Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/sexualhealth): Under 18s conceptions leading to abortion; Under 18s abortion rate; Over 25s abortion rate; Under 25s repeat abortions; Under 25s abortion after a birth; Abortions under 10 weeks; Abortions under 10 weeks that are medical; Total abortion rate

1. Further information

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](http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/InDevelopment/GID-qs10084).

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