

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Scope for guideline update (starting 2022)

Venous thromboembolic diseases: diagnosis, management and thrombophilia testing

NICE is updating its guideline on [venous thromboembolic diseases: diagnosis, management and thrombophilia testing](#). The guideline was originally published in June 2012 and last updated in March 2020. It was developed as set out in the [latest scope for the NICE guideline on venous thromboembolic diseases: diagnosis, management and thrombophilia testing](#).

A surveillance review indicated that recommendations on diagnosing and managing suspected deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE) need updating to consider people with COVID-19. Full details are set out in the [September 2022 surveillance review decision](#).

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

1 Who the guideline update covers

The current guideline covers adults with suspected or confirmed DVT or PE. This update will extend the guideline to cover adults with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (within the past 6 months) and suspected DVT or PE. The current guideline does not cover pregnant women and this will remain the same for this update.

Equality considerations

[The equality impact assessment for the 2023 guideline update](#) lists equality issues identified and how they have been addressed and explains why any populations were excluded from the scope.

This update will look at equality and health inequality issues in adults with confirmed COVID-19 and suspected DVT or PE relating to protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, and sex); socioeconomic status and deprivation; geographical area variation, and vulnerable groups.

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

We will look at the evidence and consider making new recommendations or updating existing recommendations on:

- Diagnosis and initial management: recommendations 1.1.1 to 1.1.22.

For all other areas of the guideline:

- There will be no evidence review.
- We will retain the existing recommendations, but we may revise them to ensure consistency.

In addition to this update:

- We will explore with the committee whether more detail can be added to recommendation 1.1.16 to aid implementation of the pulmonary embolism rule-out criteria (PERC). No evidence review will be conducted for this.

3 Draft review questions

We have identified the following draft review questions:

- 1 Diagnosis of PE
 - 1.1 In people with COVID-19 and suspected PE, can the need for further imaging based on a combination of clinical probability score and D-dimer assay be safely ruled out?
- 2 Diagnosis of DVT
 - 2.1 In people with COVID-19 and suspected DVT, can the need for further imaging based on a combination of clinical probability score and D-dimer assay be safely ruled out?

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Draft PICO table for review question 1.1

Population	Adults with clinically suspected or confirmed COVID-19, or recent history of COVID-19 (within the past 6 months), and suspected PE
Index test	D-dimer test (age-adjusted or fixed test threshold) alone or in combination with a PE Wells score
Reference standard	MRI pulmonary angiography, ventilation-perfusion scan, CT pulmonary angiography, VTE event during 3 months of follow-up (for people discharged without imaging because they are considered low risk)
Outcome	Diagnostic accuracy metrics such as: sensitivity/specificity, positive and negative likelihood ratios, area under the curve

Draft PICO table for review question 2.1

Population	Adults with clinically suspected or confirmed COVID-19, or recent history of COVID-19 (within the past 6 months), and suspected DVT
Index test	D-dimer test (age-adjusted or fixed test threshold) alone or in combination with a DVT Wells score
Reference standard	Compression ultrasound, venography, lower limb MRV scan, lower limb CT venogram, VTE event during 3 months of follow-up (for people discharged without imaging because they are considered low risk)
Outcome	Diagnostic accuracy metrics such as: sensitivity/specificity, positive and negative likelihood ratios, area under the curve

4 Economic aspects

We will take economic aspects into account when making recommendations. We will review the published economic evidence using an NHS and personal social services perspective, as appropriate.

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

- [COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19](#) (2021) NICE guideline NG191
- [Venous thromboembolism in over 16s: reducing the risk of hospital-acquired deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism](#) (2018) NICE guideline NG89
- [Postnatal care](#) (2021) NICE guideline NG194
- [Venous thromboembolism in adults](#) (2021) NICE quality standard QS201

6 Further information

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](#).

The guideline update is expected to be published in July 2023.

To follow the progress of the update, see the [guideline in development page](#).

Our website has information about [how NICE guidelines are developed](#).

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