

Putting NICE guidance into practice

# **Costing statement: Coeliac disease**

**Implementing the NICE guideline on coeliac  
disease (NG20)**

Published: September 2015

# 1 Introduction

This costing statement covers the [recognition, assessment and management of coeliac disease](#) (NICE guideline NG20). The guideline is an update to NICE guideline CG86 (published May 2009) and replaces it.

Coeliac disease care is commissioned by clinical commissioning groups, and support for people with coeliac disease is provided by primary care with specialist support from hospitals. Serological testing is carried out by pathology laboratories; these can be part of NHS trusts or can be independent bodies. NHS organisations are advised to assess the resource implications of this guidance locally.

Coeliac disease affects 1% of the UK population, giving a prevalence of around 530,000 in England.

## 2 Recommendations with potential resource impact

### *Potential areas for additional costs locally*

- 2.1 **Additional investment by laboratories to meet clinical pathology accreditation or ISO15189 accreditation standards.** The costs of getting accreditation will vary between laboratories and could include a one-off fee of either £750 or £1250 depending on the size of the laboratory followed by possible audit costs of around £850 per visit.
- 2.2 **Increased range of serological tests offered by laboratories.** Not all laboratories offer the full range of serological tests recommended by the guidance. The Guideline Development Group thought that laboratories could choose to work through networks to offer all tests without necessarily performing all tests on site. If laboratories choose to offer all tests on site there could be significant costs, such as the purchase of microscopes, which can cost from £2,000 to £40,000.
- 2.3 **Improved access to specialist dietetic advice.** Training may be needed for healthcare professionals caring for people with coeliac disease to enable them to offer specialist advice and support on the gluten-free diet

as part of annual reviews. Training courses for healthcare professionals cost around £500 per person.

- 2.4 Possible need for increased capacity to carry out annual reviews for around 530,000 people with coeliac disease.

***Potential areas for savings locally***

- 2.5 Possible use of human leukocyte antigen (HLA) DQ2/DQ8 testing in specialist settings (for example, in children and young people where a biopsy would require a general anesthetic or people who have already withdrawn gluten from their diet, making them unsuitable for gluten challenge).

## **About this costing statement**

This costing statement accompanies [Coeliac disease: recognition, assessment and management](#) (NICE guideline NG20).

**Issue date:** September 2015

### **This statement is written in the following context**

This statement represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available data and through consulting healthcare professionals. It should be read in conjunction with the NICE guideline. The statement is an implementation tool and focuses on those areas that were considered to have potential impact on resource utilisation.

The cost and activity assessments in the statement are estimates based on a number of assumptions. They provide an indication of the potential impact of the principal recommendations and are not absolute figures.

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