

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Breast cancer

This quality standard will update the [NICE quality standard for breast cancer](#) (QS12), which was identified as needing to be updated by the 2014 annual review of published quality standards. New guidance has been published, and there is evidence of good levels of achievement for existing quality statements.

2 Introduction

2.1 *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](#) 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 \(2012\)](#).

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the [NICE website](#).

2.2 *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.

If the source guidance is not NICE guidance, it should meet the minimum quality criteria defined in NICE's [accreditation programme](#).

3 *This quality standard*

This quality standard is expected to publish in June 2016.

3.1 *Population and topic to be covered*

This quality standard will cover the management of early (ductal carcinoma in situ and invasive), locally advanced and advanced breast cancer, recurrent breast cancer and familial breast cancer in adults. This includes the management of both screen-detected and symptomatic breast cancers from the point of referral to a specialist team. It will not cover adults with non-cancerous breast tumours.

It will update the existing quality standard for [breast cancer](#).

3.2 *Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited sources)*

Primary source

- [Familial breast cancer](#) (2013) NICE guideline CG164
- [Advanced breast cancer](#) (2009) NICE guideline CG81
- [Early and locally advanced breast cancer](#) (2009) NICE guideline CG80

Other sources that may be used

- [Gene expression profiling and expanded immunohistochemistry tests for guiding adjuvant chemotherapy decisions in early breast cancer](#)

- [management: MammaPrint, Oncotype DX, IHC4 and Mammostrat](#) (2013)
NICE diagnostics guidance DG10
- [Intraoperative tests \(RD-100i OSNA system and Metasin test\) for detecting sentinel lymph node metastases in breast cancer](#) (2013) NICE diagnostics guidance DG8
 - Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (2013) [Treatment of primary breast cancer](#)
 - [Improving outcomes in breast cancer](#) (2002) NICE guideline CSGBC

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.

- Cancer Research UK (2015) [Achieving world-class cancer outcomes: a strategy for England 2015-2020](#)
- Department of Health (2015) [2010 to 2015 government policy: cancer research and treatment](#)
- NHS England (2015) [Clinical commissioning policy statement: radiotherapy after primary surgery for breast cancer](#)
- NHS England (2015) [Clinical commissioning policy statement: Intra-operative radiotherapy for the treatment of early breast cancer](#)
- Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England (2014) [The national cancer strategy: 4th annual report](#)
- Welsh Government (2014) [Together for Health Cancer delivery plan: Annual report 2014](#)
- Department of Health (2013) [Living with and beyond cancer: taking action to improve outcomes](#)
- NHS England (2013) [Are older people receiving cancer drugs? An analysis of patterns in cancer drug delivery according to the age of patient](#)
- Department of Health (2012) [National cancer patients' experience survey programme 2012/13](#)
- Royal College of General Practitioners (2011) [National audit of cancer diagnosis in primary care](#)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Metastatic spinal cord compression](#) (2014) NICE quality standard 56
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012) NICE quality standard 15
- [Breast cancer](#) (2011) NICE quality standard 12

In development

- [Referral for suspected cancer](#). Publication expected June 2016

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](#) on the NICE website.

4 Existing indicators

- [Cancer waiting times: two week wait breast symptomatic \(where cancer not initially suspected\) from GP urgent referral to first consultant appointment](#) NHS England (2015)
- [NHS Outcomes Framework 2015 to 2016](#) 1.4 Under 75 mortality rate from cancer iii One- and iv Five-year survival from breast, lung and colorectal cancer and v One- and vi Five-year survival from cancers diagnosed at stage 1&2. Department of Health (2014)

5 Further information

See the NICE website for more information about [NICE quality standards](#) and the [progress of this quality standard](#).