

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Medicines optimisation.

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 March 2016.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover the safe and effective use of medicines in NHS/healthcare settings for all people who use medicines, and people who are receiving suboptimal benefit from medicines.

This quality standard does not cover the use of medicines by people who live in care homes because this area is covered by another quality standard.

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

Primary source

- [Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes](#) (2015) NICE guideline NG5

Other sources that may be used

- [Developing and updating local formularies](#) (2012) NICE guideline MPG1
- [Medicines adherence: involving patients in decisions about prescribed medicines and supporting adherence](#) (2009) NICE guideline CG76

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.

- Public Health England (2015) [Behaviour change and antibiotic prescribing in healthcare settings: literature review and behavioural analysis](#)
- NHS England (2014) [Medicines optimisation: Supporting information for the prototype dashboard](#)
- NHS England (2014) [Principles for sharing the benefits associated with more efficient use of medicines not reimbursed through national prices](#)
- Care Quality Commission (2013) [The safer management of controlled drugs](#)
- General Medical Council (2013) [Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices](#)
- King's Fund (2013) [Polypharmacy and medicines optimisation: making it safe and sound](#)
- NHS England (2013) [Workshop report: Making medicines-taking a better experience](#)
- Public Health England (2013) [Antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship competencies](#)
- Royal College of Nursing (2013) [Better medicines management: advice for nursing staff and patients](#)
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2013) [Medicines optimisation: helping patients to make the most of medicines](#)
- Department of Health (2012) [Improving the use of medicines for better outcomes and reduced waste: an action plan](#)
- Department of Health (2011) [Impact assessment on the introduction of the new medicine service](#)
- Department of Health (2011) [Making best use of medicines: report of a Department of Health roundtable event hosted by The King's Fund](#)
- Department of Health (2010) [Mixing of medicines prior to administration in clinical practice: medical and non-medical prescribing](#)

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Managing medicines in care homes](#) (2015) NICE quality standard 85

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012) NICE quality standard 15

In development

- [Drug allergy - diagnosis and management](#). Publication expected July 2015.

Future quality standards

This quality standard will be developed in the context of all quality standards referred to NICE, including the following quality standards scheduled for future development:

- Antimicrobial stewardship: changing risk-related behaviours in the general population
- Medicines management: managing the use of medicines in community settings for people receiving social care
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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

- None identified.

5 Further information

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