

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Head and neck cancer

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 February 2017.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover the assessment, diagnosis and management of head and neck cancer in all age groups.

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

Primary source

- [Cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract: assessment and management in people aged 16 and over](#) (2016) NICE guideline 36.

Other sources that may be used

- [Suspected cancer: recognition and referral](#) (2015) NICE guideline 12.
- [Improving outcomes in children and young people with cancer](#) (2005) NICE guideline CSG7.
- [Improving outcomes in head and neck cancers](#) (2004) NICE guideline CSG6.

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 (2016) [Consumption of alcoholic beverages and risk of cancer](#).
- Public Health England (2016) [Routes to Diagnosis](#).

- Health and Social Care Information Centre (2015) [National head and neck cancer audit \(DAHNO\) 2014 \(From 1 August 2015 moved to Saving Faces National head and neck cancer audit \(HANA\)\)](#).
- Department of Health (2014) [The national cancer strategy: 4th annual report](#).
- NHS England (2014) [Waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients 2013–2014](#).
- Department of Health (2013) [National cancer strategy: impact assessment](#)
- Department of Health (2013) [2010 to 2015 government policy: cancer research and treatment](#).
- NHS England (2013) [2013/14 NHS standard contract for cancer: head and neck \(adult\)](#).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Dyspepsia and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease in adults](#) (2015) NICE quality standard 96.
- [Alcohol: preventing harmful use in the community](#) (2015) NICE quality standard 83.
- [Smoking: harm reduction](#) (2015) NICE quality standard 92.
- [Smoking: reducing and preventing tobacco use](#) (2015) NICE quality standard 82.
- [Cancer services for children and young people](#) (2014) NICE quality standard 55.
- [Smoking: supporting people to stop](#) (2013) NICE quality standard 43.

In development

- [Suspected cancer](#). Publication expected June 2016.

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:

- Oral health promotion in care homes and hospitals.

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

- [The percentage of patients with cancer diagnosed within the preceding 15 months who have a review recorded as occurring within 3 months of the practice receiving confirmation of the diagnosis](#) (2012) NICE QOF indicator NM62
- [The proportion of invasive cases of cancer diagnosed via an emergency route.](#) NICE CCG OIS indicator 01
- [The proportion of new cases of cancer with a stage of diagnosis recorded.](#) NICE CCG OIS indicator 02
- [The proportion of people with cancer who have the cancer detected at stage 1 or 2.](#) NICE CCGOIS indicator 03.

5 Further information

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