QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

Workplace health: long-term sickness absence and capability to work

1. Introduction

NICE quality standards describe key areas for quality improvement in health, public health and social care. Each quality standard contains a set of quality statements with related measures. Quality statements are derived from evidence-based guidance, such as NICE guidance or NICE-accredited guidance. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with health, public health and social care practitioners, their partners and people using services.

* 1. Workplace health: long-term sickness absence and capability to work quality standard

This quality standard has been commissioned by Department of Health and Social Care.

It will cover how to help people return to work after long-term sickness absence, reduction of recurring sickness absence, and prevention of moving from short-term to long-term sickness absence. It will cover everyone aged over 16 who is in full-time or part-time employment (paid or unpaid) or who is unemployed and gets benefits because of a long-term condition or disability that prevents them from working.

This quality standard is expected to publish in April 2021.

* 1. Topic engagement

The topic engagement exercise will help identify what stakeholders think are the key areas for quality improvement for this topic. The areas highlighted by stakeholders will be included in the briefing paper that will be used to inform the prioritisation of key areas during the first quality standards advisory committee meeting.

1. Developing the quality standard
   1. Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited guidance)

* [Workplace health: long-term sickness absence and capability to work](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng146) (2019) NICE guideline NG146
  1. 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.

* Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health and Social Care (2019) [Employers’ motivations and practices: A study of the use of occupational health services](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/occupational-health-services-and-employers)
* National Audit Office (2019) [Supporting disabled people to work](https://www.nao.org.uk/report/supporting-disabled-people-to-work/)
* Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health and Social Care (2019) [Health in the workplace: patterns of sickness absence, employer support and employment retention](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/health-in-the-workplace-patterns-of-sickness-absence-employer-support-and-employment-retention)
* Office for National Statistics (2019) [Sickness absence in the UK labour market: 2018](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/articles/sicknessabsenceinthelabourmarket/2018)
* Department for Work and Pensions (2018) [Fit for Work: process evaluation and feasibility of an impact evaluation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fit-for-work-process-evaluation-and-feasibility-of-an-impact-evaluation)
* Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health and Social Care (2017) [Thriving at Work: a review of mental health and employers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thriving-at-work-a-review-of-mental-health-and-employers)
* Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health and Social Care (2017) [Improving lives: the future of work, health and disability](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-lives-the-future-of-work-health-and-disability)
* Department for Work and Pensions (2013) [Fit note: guidance for employers and line managers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fit-note-guidance-for-employers-and-line-managers)

1. Further information
   1. Related NICE quality standards

### Published

* [Physical activity: encouraging activity in the community](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs183) (2019) NICE quality standard 183
* [Healthy workplaces: improving employee mental and physical health and wellbeing](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs147) (2017) NICE quality standard 147
* [Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs155) (2017) NICE quality standard 155
* [Smoking: reducing and preventing tobacco use](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs82) (2015) NICE quality standard 82

### Future quality standards

* Pain management (young people and adults)

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](http://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/Developing-NICE-quality-standards-/Quality-standards-topic-library).

See the NICE website for [more information about NICE quality standards](http://www.nice.org.uk/standards-and-indicators) and the [progress of this quality standard](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10114).

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