

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD SCOPE

1 Quality standard title

The epilepsies in adults.

2 Quality standards

NICE quality standards are a set of specific, concise statements that act as markers of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, covering the treatment and prevention of different diseases and conditions.

NICE quality standards are derived from the best available evidence, such as NICE guidance and other NICE accredited sources. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with the NHS, social care professionals, and their partners and service users, and address clinical and cost effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

This work is intended to help the NHS focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for patients.

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the NICE website (see section 5, 'Further information').

3 This standard

This scope defines what the standard will (and will not) examine. It is based on the referral from the Department of Health and has been drafted following the first meeting of the Topic Expert Group.

The areas that will be addressed by the standard are described in the following sections.

3.1 Population

3.1.1 Groups that will be covered

- a) Adults (aged 18 years and older) with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of epilepsy.
- b) Specific consideration will be given to:
 - women who are pregnant or of childbearing potential
 - older people (aged 65 years and older)
 - adults with learning disabilities.
- c) Adults with all seizure types and epilepsy syndromes.

3.1.2 Groups that will not be covered

- a) Children and young people aged under 18 years (for this age group see [the epilepsies in children and young people](#)).

3.2 Settings

- a) Healthcare professionals working in primary, secondary and tertiary care centres.
- b) The quality standard may also be relevant to the work, but will not cover the practice, of those working in the occupational health services, social services, educational services and the voluntary sector.

3.3 Areas of care

The areas of care of a patient's pathway used to inform the development of the quality statements are set out in section 3.3.1. During the development of the standard the Topic Expert Group will decide which of these areas are suitable for quality statements and measures. The draft quality statements and measures will be the subject of a public consultation. The content of the quality standard statements may change during the process and may differ after consultation with stakeholders.

3.3.1 Areas of care that will be considered

- a) Assessment and referral to a specialist with appropriate expertise.
- b) Investigation for diagnosis and classification of seizure type and epilepsy syndrome.
- c) Provision of information for adults with epilepsy.
- d) Pharmacological therapy and medicines adherence.
- e) Individualised and collaborative care planning.
- f) Convulsive status epilepticus.
- g) Access to epilepsy specialist nursing.
- h) Structured holistic reviews of physiological, psychological, educational and occupational needs.
- i) Issues for women of childbearing potential concerning contraception and pregnancy.
- j) Review of epilepsy-related deaths.
- k) Organisation of services, including clinical networks.

3.3.2 Areas of care that will not be considered

- a) Delivery of surgical interventions for epilepsy.

3.4 *Economic aspects*

The Topic Expert Group will take into account both clinical and cost effectiveness when prioritising the quality statements to be included in the quality standard. The economic evidence will be considered, and the cost and commissioning impact of implementing the quality standard will be assessed.

3.5 *Timing*

The development of the quality standard will begin in July 2012.

4 Key development sources

Relevant NICE guidance (published and in development) will be used to develop the quality standard. If available, other NHS Evidence accredited sources will also be used.

4.1 *Published sources*

- [The epilepsies](#). NICE clinical guideline 137 (2012).

4.2 *Related NICE quality standards*

Published standards

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#) (2012).

Standards in development

- [The epilepsies in children and young people](#). Publication expected February 2013.

4.3 *Key policy documents and national audits*

Relevant national audits and policy documents will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

- [National audit of seizure management in hospitals](#).
- Royal College of Physicians and Association of British Neurologists (2011) [Local adult neurology services for the next decade](#).
- Department of Health (2005) [The national service framework for long term conditions](#).
- Department of Health (2003) [Improving services for people with epilepsy](#)..
- [Epilepsy Action](#) (2005) Toolkit for epilepsy 2.
- Hann NJ, Black M, Sander JWS et al. (2002) [The national sentinel clinical audit of epilepsy-related deaths: epilepsy – death in the shadows](#).
- Clinical Standards Advisory Group (2000) [Services for patients with epilepsy: report of a CSAG Committee chaired by Professor Alison Kitson](#).
- Department of Health (2000) [Department of Health response to reports on pain, outpatients, depression and epilepsy by the Clinical Standards Advisory Group](#).

5 Further information

[Information about NICE quality standards](#) and about [the progress of this quality standard](#) is available.