

## **NICE quality standards**

### **Information for people who use NHS services**

# **Information for people who use NHS services for diagnosis and management of venous thromboembolism**

The NICE quality standard for diagnosis and management of venous thromboembolism in adults sets out what high-quality care in the NHS in England should include, so that the best care can be offered to people with venous thromboembolism using NHS services in England.

In April 2016, statement 4 describing the use of compression stockings was removed. This is because the guidance from NICE has been updated and the advice on using compression stockings has changed. All other information remains the same.

## **NICE quality standard for diagnosis and management of venous thromboembolism in adults**

The quality standard for diagnosis and management of venous thromboembolism is made up of 9 statements that describe high-quality care for patients. These statements are about the best care you should receive and are summarised below.

1. People who may have deep vein thrombosis and whose confirmation test is expected to take longer than 4 hours from the time an appropriate healthcare professional requests it are offered a dose of an anticoagulant (a drug that helps to stop blood clots forming or enlarging, and makes it less likely that a blood clot will come loose and travel to the lungs).

2. People who may have deep vein thrombosis have all their diagnostic tests done within 24 hours of the tests being requested by an appropriate healthcare professional.
3. People who may have a pulmonary embolism whose test results are expected to take longer than 1 hour from the time the tests are requested by an appropriate healthcare professional are offered a dose of an anticoagulant.
4. Statement 4 describing the use of compression stockings has been removed. This is because the guidance from NICE has been updated and the advice on using compression stockings has changed.
5. People who have an unprovoked (with no obvious cause) deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism and who are not already known to have cancer are offered tests for cancer.
6. People who have had a provoked (with an obvious cause) deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism are not offered tests for thrombophilia (a condition that makes the blood more likely to form clots).
7. People with active cancer who have a deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism are offered treatment with an anticoagulant.
8. People without cancer who have had deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism and who are having treatment with an anticoagulant are offered a review within 3 months of diagnosis to discuss the risks and benefits of continuing treatment with an anticoagulant.
9. People with cancer who have had deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism and who are having treatment with an anticoagulant are offered a review to discuss the risks and benefits of continuing treatment with an anticoagulant.

## Your care

In the NHS, patients and healthcare professionals have rights and responsibilities as set out in the [NHS Constitution](#). All NICE quality standards are written to reflect these. You have the right to be involved in discussions and make informed decisions about your treatment and care with your healthcare team. Your choices are important and healthcare professionals should support these wherever possible. You should be treated with dignity and respect.

## Information from NICE about diagnosis and management of venous thromboembolism in adults

See the NICE website for the full quality standard for [venous thromboembolism in adults: diagnosis and management](#), written for healthcare professionals.

NICE also produces guidance (advice) for the NHS in England and Wales about preventing, diagnosing and treating medical conditions, based on the best available evidence.

NICE has produced guidance on [venous thromboembolic diseases](#) and on [rivaroxaban to treat deep vein thrombosis and prevent deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism](#).

See the NICE website for information for the public about the care and treatment recommended in the NICE guidance on [venous thromboembolic diseases](#). Information for the public explaining the NICE guidance on [when rivaroxaban should be used to treat deep vein thrombosis and to prevent pulmonary embolism and further deep vein thrombosis](#) is also available. The information is written to help patients, their families and carers to understand the care and treatment options that should be available in the NHS.

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