

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Heavy menstrual bleeding

2 Background

NICE quality standards are concise sets of statements designed to drive and measure priority quality improvements within a particular area of care.

NICE quality standards are derived from NICE guidance and other guidance [accredited](#) by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with NHS and social care professionals, their partners and service users. Recommendations relating to effectiveness and cost effectiveness, 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 an NHS 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](#).

3 Topic overview

This topic overview describes core elements of the quality standard. These include the population and condition to be covered, key source guidance to be used to underpin potential quality statements, any related NICE guidance and 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.

3.1 *Timing*

The development of the quality standard will begin in February 2013 and is expected to take 10 months to complete.

4 *Population and condition to be covered*

This quality standard will cover the care of women of reproductive age with heavy menstrual bleeding as a result of cyclical ovarian activity, as the major complaint. This may be associated with uterine fibroids, because heavy menstrual bleeding is commonly the major presenting symptom, or dysfunctional uterine bleeding in the absence of visible pathology.

5 *Key development sources (NICE and NICE accredited sources)*

5.1 *Primary source*

- [Heavy menstrual bleeding](#). NICE clinical guideline 44 (2007).

5.2 *Other sources that may be used*

- [Fluid-filled thermal balloon and microwave endometrial ablation techniques for heavy menstrual bleeding](#). NICE technology appraisal guidance 78 (2004).

5.3 *NICE guidance under development*

- None identified.

6 *Related NICE quality standards*

6.1 *Published*

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

6.2 *In development*

- None identified.

6.3 *Quality standards topic library*

In March 2012, the Department of Health referred a [library of quality standard topics](#) for the NHS to NICE for development.

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

- Medicines adherence (provisional)
- Safe prescribing (provisional)
- Endometriosis

7 *Key policy documents and national audits*

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

- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (On-going audits) [National heavy menstrual bleeding audit](#).
- University of Oxford (2010) [A structured review of patient-reported outcome measures for people undergoing procedures for benign gynaecological conditions of the uterus](#).
- Department of Health (2008) [Elective care commissioning pathway - heavy menstrual bleeding](#).
- Department of Health (2008) [Heavy menstrual bleeding \(menorrhagia\)](#).
Supplementary information to be read in conjunction with the pathway.

8 *Existing indicators*

None identified.

9 Further information

[More information about NICE quality standards](#) and [the progress of this quality standard](#) is available from the [NICE website](#).

Information on the quality standard development process is provided in:

- [Developing NICE quality standards: process guide](#).