

# Inducing labour

Information for the public

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[nice.org.uk](http://nice.org.uk)

## About this information

NICE quality standards help to improve key areas of health or social care so that people are offered the best care available.

This information explains the care and support described in [NICE quality standard 60](#) on induction of labour.

## Induction of labour

The quality standard for induction of labour is made up of 3 statements that describe high-quality care for women having induction of labour. These statements set out the quality of care you should receive.

1. Women who are offered induction of labour (labour that is artificially started using a pessary, tablet or gel) are given personalised information by their healthcare professionals about the reasons for induction of labour, the benefits and risks for them and their babies, and the alternatives to induction.
2. Women who have induction of labour started in a hospital maternity unit and then go home to wait for the induction to work are offered monitoring for a time before they leave the unit, and given information about who to contact if contractions start or they have any concerns, and about the types of pain relief available.

3. Women who have induction of labour are offered pain relief that is appropriate for the amount of pain they are experiencing and the type of pain relief they request.

## Your care

Your health and social care team should explain any treatment, care or support you should be offered so that you can decide together what is best for you. NICE has also produced advice and quality standards on [improving the experience of care for adults using the NHS](#) which you might like to read.

We also have more information on the NICE website about [using health and social care services](#).

## More information on induction of labour

NICE has also produced guidance (advice) on [induction of labour](#). The guidance was used to develop this quality standard.

### *Sources of advice and support for women having induction of labour, their families and carers*

- Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services, 0300 365 0663  
[www.aims.org.uk](http://www.aims.org.uk)
- NCT, 0300 330 0700  
[www.nct.org.uk](http://www.nct.org.uk)

You can also go to [NHS Choices](#) for more information about health and social care.

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

A number of organisations who share NICE's commitment to improving quality in this area formally support this quality standard. They may also be able to provide advice and support. For a list of these organisations see the [induction of labour quality standard](#) on the NICE website.

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## Accreditation

