

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Infection control

2 Introduction

2.1 *NICE quality standards*

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

The 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](#).

2.2 *This topic overview*

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

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

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover the prevention and control of infection for people receiving healthcare in primary, community and secondary care settings.

3.2 Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited sources)

Primary source

- [Infection: prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections in primary and community care](#). NICE clinical guideline 139 (2012).
- [Prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections](#). NICE public health guidance 36 (2011).

Other sources that may be used

- Pratt RJ et al. (2007) [epic2: National evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections in NHS hospitals in England](#). *Journal of Hospital Infection* 65 (supplement 1):S1–64.

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

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

- [The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance](#). Department of Health (2010).
- [Reducing healthcare associated infections in hospitals in England](#). National Audit Office (2009).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard 15 (2012).
- [Service user experience in adult mental health](#). NICE quality standard 14 (2011).

In development

- [Surgical site infection](#). Publication expected October 2013.

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.

4 Existing indicators

- Department of Health Indicator 5.2: Incidence of healthcare-associated infection: (i) MRSA; (ii) C. difficile. [NHS Outcomes Framework 2013/14](#).

5 Further information

See the NICE website for more information about [NICE quality standards](#) and the [progress of this quality standard](#).