

Intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital

Information for the public

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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 66 on intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital.

Intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital

The quality standard for intravenous (IV) fluid therapy in adults in hospital is made up of 4 statements that describe high-quality care for adults in hospital receiving IV fluid therapy. These statements set out the quality of care you should receive.

1. Adults receiving IV fluid therapy are cared for in a hospital that has a person who has overall responsibility for ensuring that they receive safe and effective IV fluid therapy.
2. Adults receiving IV fluid therapy in hospital are cared for by a team of healthcare professionals who have the knowledge and skills to ensure that they receive safe and effective IV fluid therapy.
3. Adults receiving IV fluid therapy in hospital will know that they have an IV fluid management plan that has been written by and reviewed by an expert. The plan includes the details of the patient's IV fluid prescription (what is needed over the next 24 hours and how it is to be given), as well as details of the IV fluid therapy assessments and checks that should be carried out over the next 24 hours.

4. Adults receiving IV fluid therapy in hospital are cared for in a hospital that has systems set in place so that IV fluid therapy problems (for example, patients not getting enough IV fluid and becoming severely dehydrated) are reported and dealt with correctly.

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 guidance (advice) and a quality standard 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 intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital

NICE has also produced guidance on [intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital](#). The guidance was used to develop this quality standard.

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

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 [intravenous fluid therapy in adults in hospital quality standard](#) on the NICE website.

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Accreditation

