

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

### 1 Quality standard title

Head injury

### 2 Introduction

#### 2.1 *NICE quality standards*

NICE quality standards are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care.

The standards are derived from high-quality guidance, such as that from NICE or [accredited](#) by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with healthcare professionals and public health and social care practitioners, their partners and service users. Information on priority areas, 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 a health 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 January 2014 and is expected to take 10 months to complete.

#### **3.1 Population and topic to be covered**

This quality standard will cover triage, assessment, investigation and early management of head injury in infants, children and adults. The quality standard will also cover rehabilitation in adults (aged 16 years and older) with traumatic brain injury.

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

##### **Primary sources**

- [Brain injury rehabilitation in adults](#). SIGN guideline130 (2013)
- [Head injury](#): triage, assessment, investigation and early management of head injury in infants, children and adults. NICE clinical guideline 56 (2007)

##### **In development**

- [Head injury](#): triage, assessment, investigation and early management of head injury in infants, children and adults (update). NICE clinical guideline (publication expected January 2014)

##### **Other sources that may be used**

- [Head injury](#). Royal College of Radiologists (2012)
- [Essential care after an inpatient fall](#). Rapid Response Report. National Patient Safety Agency (2011)
- [Early management of patients with a head injury](#). SIGN guideline110 (2009)

## 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.

- [Government response to the House of Commons Health Select Committee report into urgent and emergency services](#). Department of Health (2013)
- [Performance comparison: information for hospitals: survival rates of major injury for patients who have been admitted to hospital](#). The Trauma Audit and Research Network (2013)
- [Head injury in adults: initial management](#) Map of Medicine (2012)
- [HES on... traumatic brain injuries](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2012)
- [Impact of the 2007 NICE guideline for children's head injury](#). NICE Shared Learning Database (2011)
- [Management of children with major trauma](#). NHS Clinical Advisory Groups (2011)
- [Major trauma care in England](#). National Audit Office (2010)
- [Regional networks for major trauma](#). NHS Clinical Advisory Groups (2010)
- [Head injury](#). Clinical knowledge summaries (2009)
- [Improving acute care for major trauma services](#). QIPP case study (2009)
- [Trauma: who cares?](#) National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (2007)
- [Provision of trauma care: policy briefing](#). Royal College of Surgeons (2007)
- [CT in head injury audit](#). Royal College of Radiologists (2005)
- [Report of the working party on the management of patients with head injuries](#). Royal College of Surgeons (1999)

### 3.3 *Related NICE quality standards*

#### Published

- None identified.

#### In development

- None identified.

## Future quality standards

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

- Major trauma
- Trauma services
- Urgent and emergency care

## 4 Existing indicators

- Mortality from skull fracture and intracranial injury. [The HSCIC indicator portal](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2013)
- The number of Category A (Red 1) calls resulting in an emergency response arriving at the scene of the incident within 8 minutes. [Ambulance Quality Indicators](#). NHS England (2013)
- The number of Category A (Red 2) calls resulting in an emergency response arriving at the scene of the incident within 8 minutes. [Ambulance Quality Indicators](#). NHS England (2013)
- The number of Category A calls resulting in an ambulance arriving at the scene of the incident within 19 minutes. [Ambulance Quality Indicators](#). NHS England (2013)

## 5 Further information

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