

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Smoking: harm reduction

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 health, 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

This quality standard is expected to publish in July 2015.

3.1 Population and topic to be covered

This quality standard will cover ways of reducing harm from smoking, particularly for people who are highly dependent on nicotine and who:

- may not be able (or do not want) to stop smoking in one step
- may want to stop smoking, without necessarily giving up nicotine
- may not be ready to stop smoking, but want to reduce the amount they smoke.
- may want to temporarily abstain from smoking.

This may include awareness-raising, advising on, providing and selling licensed nicotine-containing products; self-help materials and behavioural support.

This quality standard will not cover products containing tobacco that may be used as a means of 'harm reduction' (such as 'reduced exposure cigarettes' or 'smokeless tobacco'). This quality standard will not cover pregnant women or maternity services. The quality standard will also not cover the delivery of smoking cessation services, which is already covered by [Smoking cessation: supporting people to stop smoking. NICE quality standard 43 \(2013\)](#).

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

Primary source

- [Tobacco: harm-reduction approaches to smoking](#). NICE public health guidance 45 (2013).

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

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

- [Electronic cigarettes](#). Public Health England (2014)
- [Revision of the Tobacco Products Directive](#). European Commission (2014).
- [Statistics on NHS stop smoking services in England – April 2013 to December 2013](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2014)
- [Opinions and lifestyle survey, smoking habits amongst adults 2012](#). Office for National Statistics (2013)
- [Smoking and mental health](#). Royal College of Psychiatrists (2013)
- [Statistics on smoking, England - 2013](#). Health and Social Care Information Centre (2013)
- [Healthy lives, healthy people: a tobacco control plan for England](#). Department of Health (2011).
- [The use of nicotine replacement therapy to reduce harm in smokers](#). Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (2010).
- [Harm reduction in nicotine addiction: helping people who can't quit](#). Royal College of Physicians (2007).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Peripheral arterial disease](#). NICE quality standard 52 (2014).
- [Hypertension](#). NICE quality standard 28 (2013).
- [Smoking cessation: supporting people to stop smoking](#). NICE quality standard 43 (2013).

NICE quality standard: Smoking: harm reduction overview (September 2014)

- [Lung cancer](#). NICE quality standard 17 (2012).
- [Chronic heart failure](#). NICE quality standard 9 (2011).
- [Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#). NICE quality standard 10 (2011).
- [Stroke](#). NICE quality standard 2 (2010).

In development

- [Smoking – reducing tobacco use in the community](#). Publication expected January 2015.

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:

- Acute heart failure.

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](#) on the NICE website.

4 Existing indicators

- [Local Tobacco Control Profiles for England](#). Public Health England.
- The [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) contains 2 relevant smoking-related outcomes within the 'health improvement' domain:
 - 2.14 Prevalence of smoking among persons aged 18 years and over
 - 2.9 Prevalence of smoking among 15 year olds (placeholder indicator).
- [The Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) also publishes a number of other relevant smoking indicators:
 - cigarette smoking
 - cotinine level
 - smoking among patients with selected conditions
 - Local basket of inequalities indicators (LBOI) Indicator 13.14 – rate of deaths attributable to smoking in persons older than 35 years.
- Quality and Outcomes (QOF) indicator SMOK002: [The percentage of patients with any or any combination of the following conditions: CHD,](#)

NICE quality standard: Smoking: harm reduction overview (September 2014)

PAD, stroke or TIA, hypertension, diabetes, COPD, CKD, asthma, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder or other psychoses who are recorded as current smokers who have a record of an offer of support and treatment within the preceding 12 months.

- QOF indicator SMOK004: The percentage of patients aged 15 years and over who are recorded as current smokers who have a record of an offer of support and treatment within the preceding 24 months.
- QOF indicator SMOK005: The percentage of patients with any or any combination of the following conditions: CHD, PAD, stroke or TIA, hypertension, diabetes, COPD, CKD, asthma, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder or other psychoses who smoke whose notes contain a record of an offer of support and treatment within the preceding 15 months.

5 Further information

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