NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE

Diabetes: annual care processes

NICE indicator
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www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind10

Indicator

The proportion of adults with diabetes who have received all 9 basic care processes.

Indicator type

Network / system level indicator.

The indicator would be appropriate to understand and report on the performance of networks or systems of providers.

This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. For a full list of NICE indicators, see our menu of indicators.

To find out how to use indicators and how we develop them, see our NICE indicator process guide.

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Rationale

Key care processes to monitor and manage diabetes can help people with diabetes to manage their condition and reduce the risk of complications. These care processes are: HbA1c to test glucose control, blood pressure, serum cholesterol, body mass index (BMI) and smoking history (as measurements of cardiovascular risk), serum creatinine and urine albumin/creatinine ratio to test renal function, examination of foot ulcer risk and digital retinal screening for early detection of eye disease.

Source guidance

- Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and management. NICE guideline NG136 (2019, updated 2023), recommendations 1.2.11 and 1.4.15
- Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management. NICE guideline NG17 (2015, updated 2022), recommendations 1.12.2, 1.12.5 and 1.14.5
- Type 2 diabetes in adults: management. NICE guideline NG28 (2015, updated 2026), recommendations 1.5.1 and 1.43.1
- Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management. NICE guideline NG19 (2015, updated 2019), recommendations 1.3.3, 1.3.7 and 1.3.11
- Chronic kidney disease in adults: assessment and management. NICE guideline NG203 (2021), recommendations 1.1.14 and 1.1.21

Specification

Numerator: The number in the denominator who receive all of the 9 basic care processes in the preceding 12 months:

Risk factors:

- blood pressure (systolic and diastolic blood pressure)
- HbA1c
- cholesterol levels

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- BMI and weight
- smoking review.

Tests for early complications:

- foot exam
- eye screening (retinopathy screening)
- urinary albumin test (or protein test to measure renal function)
- blood creatinine (indicator for renal function).

Denominator: The number of people with diabetes.

Calculation: Numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

Exclusions: None.

Data source: National Diabetes Audit (NDA).

Expected population size: National Diabetes Audit for 2023 to 2024 and ONS mid-year population data for 2024 shows that 6.6% of people in England have a diagnosis of diabetes and are eligible for nine care processes: 658 per 10,000 patients served by a network. There is no minimum number of patients required for network level indicators. However, consideration should be given to whether the majority of results would require suppression because of small numbers

Update information

Minor changes since publication

February 2026: We updated the source guidance information to align with the update to NICE's guideline on type 2 diabetes in adults and added expected population size.

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