



Autism: register

NICE indicator

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www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind175

Indicator

The contractor establishes and maintains a register of all patients on the autistic spectrum.

Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

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](#)

Rationale

The aim of this indicator is to encourage practices to record the diagnosis of autism using appropriate clinical codes. An accurate register is a prerequisite to ensuring proactive engagement with people with a defined condition. Establishing a register of autistic people could provide a number of opportunities to improve care and outcomes including measuring access to wider care services, identifying where there is evidence of unequal access or enabling services to make reasonable adjustments for autistic people. It would also provide an identifiable population to assess and measure longer term health outcomes and care process indicators.

Source guidance

Autism spectrum disorder in adults: diagnosis and management. NICE guideline CG142 (2012, updated 2021)

Autism spectrum disorder in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis. NICE guideline CG128 (2011, updated 2017)

Specification

A register of people on the autistic spectrum.

Exclusions: None

Diagnoses should be made according to the criteria in ICD 10 or DSM V, usually by an appropriate autism assessment team.

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level.

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