

# Mortality: liver disease

NICE indicator

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[www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind282](https://www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind282)

## Indicator

Under 75 mortality from liver disease.

## 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](#).

## Rationale

The indicator aims to prevent premature mortality with the aim of lowering numbers to

improve health outcomes. Liver disease is a major cause of death in England and the NHS can contribute to reducing premature deaths from both amenable and non-amenable causes. [NICE's quality standards on liver disease](#) and [hepatitis B](#), based on NICE guidelines, include statements on preventative interventions, and identifying and managing liver disease.

## Source guidance

- [Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease \(NAFLD\): assessment and management. NICE guideline NG49 \(2016\)](#)
- [Cirrhosis in over 16: assessment and management. NICE guideline NG50 \(2016, updated 2023\)](#)
- [Hepatitis B \(chronic\): diagnosis and management. NICE guideline CG165 \(2013, updated 2017\)](#)

## Specification

Numerator: Number of deaths for which liver disease is given as the underlying cause of death, based on the original cause recorded on the death certificate.

Denominator: Mid-year population estimates.

Calculation: Directly age-standardised rate.

Definitions: Liver disease uses codes ICD10 K70 to 77, B15 to 19, C22, I81, I85, T86.4. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) publishes the full ICD10 classification available for the [NOMIS explorable dataset](#).

Exclusions: None identified.

Data source: Primary Care Mortality Database (PCMD) / ONS Mortality data; ONS annual mid-year population estimates.

Expected population size: [ONS \(2024\)'s Estimates of the population for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, mid-2023 edition, MYE1](#), show that for England (2023), 91% (52,380,101 divided by 57,690,323) of people in England were aged under 75:

9,080 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.

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