

Myocardial infarction: PCI rates

NICE indicator

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Indicator

The time between call for help and balloon inflation for patients with ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) undergoing reperfusion by primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI).

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

All patients with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) presenting 12 hours or less after onset of symptoms should undergo coronary reperfusion therapy. Heart muscle starts to be lost once a coronary artery is blocked and the sooner reperfusion therapy is delivered the better the outcome for the patient. Coronary angiography with follow-on primary PCI is the preferred reperfusion strategy for people with STEMI if it can be delivered within 120 minutes of the time when fibrinolysis could have been given. The [National Audit of Percutaneous Coronary Intervention](#) (2020) includes a standard that 75% of all patients should have a call to balloon time of less than 150 minutes.

Source guidance

[Acute coronary syndromes. NICE guideline NG185](#) (2020), recommendation 1.1.3

Specification

Median time between call for help and balloon inflation for patients with STEMI undergoing reperfusion with primary PCI.

The [Percutaneous coronary interventions \(PCI\) dataset](#) defines call for help as the time of the initial call by the patient, relative or attendant (field number 5.27 and 5.29).

- This may be to a GP, NHS Direct or the ambulance service.
- If the patient self presents to accident and emergency this time should be arrival at first hospital.
- If a patient is already in hospital or en route at the time they develop STEMI, this should be the time of the diagnostic ECG.

Exclusions:

The [Percutaneous coronary interventions \(PCI\) dataset](#) details the following exclusions:

- Patients presenting in cardiogenic shock.
- Patients requiring pre-PCI ventilation.

Data source: Percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI) dataset.

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

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