



# Learning disabilities: annual TSH test

NICE indicator

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[www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind79](http://www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind79)

## Indicator

Percentage of patients on the learning disability register with Down's Syndrome aged 18 and over who have a record of blood TSH in the previous 15 months (excluding those who are on the thyroid disease register).

## Indicator type

General practice indicator for use outside the Quality and Outcomes Framework. Assessment of available data highlights that the average population size per practice is less than 20 patients.

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

Children and adults with Down's syndrome are at increased risk of thyroid dysfunction, particularly hypothyroidism, compared with the general population, and the incidence of thyroid dysfunction increases with age. The indicator supports identification of thyroid dysfunction among patients with Down's Syndrome on Learning Disability register.

## Source guidance

[Thyroid disease: assessment and management. NICE guideline NG145 \(2019, updated 2023\)](#), recommendation 1.2.1

## Specification

**Numerator:** The number of patients in the denominator with a record of blood TSH in the previous 15 months.

**Denominator:** The number of patients on the learning disability register with Down's syndrome aged 18 and over.

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

**Exclusions:** Patients on the thyroid disease register.

**Minimum population:** The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance of collaborations or networks of GP practices serving populations of around 30,000 to 50,000.

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