QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

Antenatal care (update)

1. Introduction

NICE quality standards describe key areas for quality improvement in health, public health and social care. Each quality standard contains a set of quality statements with related measures. Quality statements are derived from evidence-based guidance, such as NICE guidance or NICE-accredited guidance. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with health, public health and social care practitioners, their partners and people using services.

Antenatal care (update) quality standard

This quality standard has been commissioned by NHS England.

The quality standard will cover routine the antenatal care women and their babies (and their partners and families, if appropriate) should receive during pregnancy up to 42 weeks.

This quality standard will replace the existing NICE quality standard for [antenatal care (QS22)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs22/). The topic was identified for update following a review of quality standards in 2021.

This quality standard is expected to publish by February 2023.

The overview uses the term ‘woman’ and 'mother' throughout. These should be taken to include people who do not identify as women but who are pregnant. Partner is defined as: ‘the baby's father, the woman's partner, family member or friend, or anyone who the woman wishes to involve in her antenatal care’.

Topic engagement

The topic engagement exercise will help identify what stakeholders think are the key areas for quality improvement for this topic. The areas highlighted by stakeholders will be included in the briefing paper that will be used to inform the prioritisation of key areas during the first quality standards advisory committee meeting.

2. Developing the quality standard

Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited guidance)

* [Antenatal care](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng201) (2021) NICE guideline NG201.

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

Relevant policy documents, reports and national audits will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

* Department of Health and Social Care (2022) [Final report of the Ockenden review](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-of-the-ockenden-review)
* Care Quality Commission (2021) [NHS Patient Survey Programme: maternity services survey](https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/surveys/maternity-survey-2021)
* MBRRACE-UK (2021) [Saving lives, improving mothers’ care](https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrrace-uk/reports)
* MBRRACE-UK (2021) [UK perinatal surveillance reports](https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrrace-uk/reports)
* NHS Digital (2021) [Maternity services monthly statistics](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/maternity-services-monthly-statistics)
* NHS Digital (2021) [NHS maternity statistics](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-maternity-statistics/2020-21)
* [National Maternity and Perinatal Audit](https://maternityaudit.org.uk/pages/home) (2021)
* NHS England (2020) [Better births four years on: A review of progress](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/better-births-four-years-on-a-review-of-progress/)
* NHS England (2019) [NHS Long Term Plan](https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/online-version/)
* NHS England (2019) [Saving Babies’ Lives Version 2 – a care bundle for reducing perinatal mortality](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/saving-babies-lives-version-two-a-care-bundle-for-reducing-perinatal-mortality/)
* MBRRACE-UK (2017) [Term, singleton, intrapartum stillbirth and intrapartum-related neonatal death](https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrrace-uk/reports/perinatal-mortality-and-morbidity-confidential-enquiries)

3. Further information

3.1 Related NICE quality standards

### Published

* [Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs204) (2022) NICE quality standard 204
* [Intrapartum care: existing medical conditions and obstetric complications](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs192) (2020) NICE quality standard 192
* [Preterm labour and birth](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs135) (2016) NICE quality standard 135
* [Antenatal and postnatal mental health](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs115) (2016) NICE quality standard 115
* [Intrapartum care](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs105) (2015, updated 2017) NICE quality standard 105
* [Nutrition: improving maternal and child nutrition](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs98) (2015) NICE quality standard 98
* [Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs69) (2014) NICE quality standard 69
* [Inducing labour](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs60) (2014, updated 2021) NICE quality standard 60
* [Multiple pregnancy: twin and triplet pregnancies](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs46) (2018, updated 2019) NICE quality standard 46
* [Hypertension in pregnancy](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs35) (2013, updated 2019) NICE quality standard 35
* [Caesarean birth](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs32) (2013, updated 2021) NICE quality standard 32
* [Patient experience in adult NHS services](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs15) (2012, updated 2019) NICE quality standard 15

### In development

* [Diabetes in pregnancy (update)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10157) (2016) NICE quality standard 109. Publication expected by February 2023.
* [Smoking: treating dependence (update)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10153). Publication expected by January 2023.
* [Postnatal care (update)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10150) (2013, updated 2021). NICE quality standard 37. Publication expected by October 2022.

The full list of quality standard topics referred to NICE is available from the [quality standard topic library](http://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/Developing-NICE-quality-standards-/Quality-standards-topic-library).

See the NICE website for [more information about NICE quality standards](http://www.nice.org.uk/standards-and-indicators) and the [progress of this quality standard](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10155).

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