

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD SCOPE

1 Quality standard title

Hypertension in pregnancy.

2 Quality standards

NICE quality standards are a set of specific, concise statements that act as markers of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, covering the treatment and prevention of different diseases and conditions.

NICE quality standards are derived from the best available evidence, such as NICE guidance and NICE accredited sources. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with the NHS, social care professionals, and their partners and service users, and address clinical and cost effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

This work is intended to help the NHS focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for patients.

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the NICE website (see section 5, 'Further information').

3 This standard

This scope defines what the standard will (and will not) consider. It is based on the referral from the Department of Health and has been drafted following the first meeting of the Topic Expert Group.

The areas that will be considered by the standard are described in the following sections.

3.1 ***Population***

3.1.1 **Groups that will be covered**

- a) Women with pre-existing hypertensive disorders.
- b) Women at increased risk of developing hypertensive disorders during pregnancy.
- c) Women who develop hypertensive disorders during pregnancy and in the postnatal period.

3.1.2 **Groups that will not be covered**

None.

3.2 ***Healthcare settings***

- a) Primary care, including community midwifery settings.
- b) Secondary and tertiary care, including obstetric, neonatal and general medical services.

3.3 ***Areas of care***

The areas of care of a patient's pathway used to inform the development of the quality statements are set out in section 3.3.1. During the development of the standard the Topic Expert Group will decide which of these areas are suitable for quality statements and measures. The draft quality statements and measures will be the subject of a public consultation. The content of the quality standard statements may change during the process and may differ after consultation with stakeholders.

3.3.1 **Areas of care that will be considered**

- a) Pre-pregnancy advice, including advice for women having pharmacological treatment for chronic hypertension.
- b) Antenatal assessment of women's risk of gestational hypertension and pre-eclampsia.

- c) Antenatal care specifically for women with chronic hypertension, including:
- assessment for proteinuria
 - blood-pressure monitoring
 - indications for investigation of severe hypertension in early pregnancy.
- d) Antenatal care specifically for women with gestational hypertension or pre-eclampsia, including documented care plans.
- e) Fetal monitoring for pregnant women with hypertension.
- f) Intrapartum care, including:
- mode and timing of delivery
 - management of blood pressure.
- g) Intrapartum care specifically for women with pre-eclampsia, including:
- management of severe pre-eclampsia in a critical care setting
 - venous thromboembolism (VTE) testing and prophylaxis for women with pre-eclampsia.
- h) Postnatal care, including management of blood pressure.
- i) Follow-up care, including:
- transfer to community care
 - advice about future risks.

3.3.2 Areas of care that will not be considered

- j) Routine antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care.
- k) Management of diabetes in pregnant women with hypertensive disorders.

There are quality standards in development that cover these areas (please refer to sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).

3.4 Economic aspects

The Topic Expert Group will take into account both clinical and cost effectiveness when prioritising the quality statements to be included in the quality standard. The economic evidence will be considered, and the cost and commissioning impact of implementing the quality standard will be assessed.

3.5 Timing

The development of this quality standard began in August 2012.

4 Key development sources

Relevant NICE guidance (published) will be used to develop the quality standard. If available, other NICE-accredited sources will also be used.

4.1 Published sources

- [Multiple pregnancy](#). NICE clinical guideline 129 (2011).
- [Hypertension in pregnancy](#). NICE clinical guideline 107 (2010).
- [Venous thromboembolism](#). NICE clinical guideline 92 (2010).
- [Diabetes in pregnancy](#). NICE clinical guideline 63 (2008).
- [Antenatal care](#). NICE clinical guideline 62 (2008).
- [Intrapartum care](#). NICE clinical guideline 55 (2007).
- [Postnatal care](#). NICE clinical guideline 37 (2006).

4.2 Related NICE quality standards

4.2.1 Published standards

- [Antenatal care](#). NICE quality standard (2012).
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard (2012).
- [Specialist neonatal care quality standard](#). NICE quality standard (2010).
- [VTE prevention quality standard](#). NICE quality standard (2010).

4.2.2 Standards in development

- Hypertension. NICE quality standard. Publication expected March 2013.
- Caesarean section. NICE quality standard. Publication expected May 2013.
- Hypertension in pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication expected July 2013.
- Postnatal care. NICE quality standard. Publication expected July 2013.
- Multiple pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.

4.2.3 Maternity quality standard topics referred to core library not yet in development

- Antenatal and postnatal mental health. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Diabetes in pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Induction of labour. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Intrapartum care. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Pain and bleeding in early pregnancy. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.
- Premature labour. NICE quality standard. Publication date to be confirmed.

4.3 *Key policy documents, and national audits and surveys*

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

4.3.1 Key policy documents

- Department of Health (2012) [Maternity services pathway payment system: a simple guide 2012–13](#).
- Welsh Assembly Government (2012) [A strategic vision for maternity services in Wales](#).

- NHS Scotland (2011) [Improving maternal and infant nutrition: a framework for action](#).
- NHS Scotland. The Maternity Services Action Group (2011) [Refreshed Framework for Maternity Care in Scotland](#).
- NHS Scotland (2011) [Reducing antenatal health inequalities: outcome focused evidence into action guidance](#).
- Welsh Assembly Government (2011) [A vision for world class maternity services in Wales](#).
- Department of Health (2010) [Maternity and early years: making a good start to family life](#).
- Department of Health (2009) [Healthy child programme: pregnancy and the first five years of life](#).
- Department of Health (2009) [Delivering high quality midwifery care: the priorities, opportunities and challenges for midwives](#).
- Welsh Assembly Government (2008) [NHS Wales: Midwifery Workforce Planning Project: developing a workforce planning model \(final report\)](#).
- Department of Health (2007) [Maternity matters: choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service](#).
- Department of Health (2005) [Maternity services exemplar: national service framework for children, young people and maternity services](#).
- Welsh Assembly Government (2005) [National service framework for children, young people and maternity services](#).
- Department of Health (2004) [National service framework for children, young people and maternity services](#).
- Department of Health (1999) [Health outcome indicators – normal pregnancy and childbirth: report of a working group to the Department of Health](#).

4.3.2 National audits and surveys

- National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (ongoing) [Mothers and babies: reducing risk through audits and confidential enquiries across the UK \(MBRRACE-UK\)](#).
- Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (2011) [Perinatal mortality 2009](#).

- Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (2011) [Saving mothers' lives.](#)
- Care Quality Commission (2010) [Maternity services survey 2010.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2009) [Perinatal mortality 2007.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2008) [Perinatal mortality 2006.](#)
- King's Fund (2008) [Safe births: everybody's business.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2007) [Perinatal mortality 2005.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2007) [Saving mothers' lives.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2006) [Perinatal mortality surveillance report 2004.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2005) [Stillbirth, neonatal and post-neonatal mortality 2002–2003.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2005) [Why mothers die 2000–2002: erratum.](#)
- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (2004) [Why mothers die 2000–2002.](#)
- Department of Health (1998) [Why mothers die.](#)

5 Further information

Information on the quality standard development process is provided in the [NICE quality standards interim process guide](#)

[Information on the progress of this quality standard](#) is also available.