

# About the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence - NICE



## Sobre o National Institute for Health and Care Excellence - NICE

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The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care.

NICE was originally set up in 1999 as the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, a special health authority, to reduce variation in the availability and quality of NHS treatments and care.

In April 2013 we were established in primary legislation, becoming a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and placing us on a solid statutory footing as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. At this time we took on responsibility for developing guidance and quality standards in social care, and our name changed once more to reflect these new responsibilities.

As an NDPB, we are accountable to our sponsor department, the Department of Health, but operationally we are independent of government. Our guidance and other recommendations are made by independent committees. The NICE Board sets our strategic priorities and policies, but the day to day decision-making is the responsibility of our Senior Management Team (SMT).

We have offices in London, Manchester and Liverpool.

NICE's role is to improve outcomes for people using the NHS and other public health and social care services. We do this by:

- Producing evidence-based guidance and advice for health, public health and social care practitioners.
- Developing quality standards and performance metrics for those providing and commissioning health, public health and social care services;
- Providing a range of information services for commissioners, practitioners and managers across the spectrum of health and social care.

### Evidence-based guidance and advice

Our guidance takes several forms:

- Clinical guidelines provide the NHS and others with advice on the management of individual conditions. They are systematically-developed statements to assist

professional and patient decisions about appropriate care for specific clinical circumstances. These may be as diverse as antenatal care, breast cancer or schizophrenia. They are developed in association with the Royal Medical, Nursing and Midwifery Colleges.

- Technology appraisals assess the clinical and cost effectiveness of health technologies, such as new pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical products, but also include procedures, devices and diagnostic agents. This is to ensure that all NHS patients have equitable access to the most clinically- and cost-effective treatments that are available.
- Social care guidance will provide practical support to practitioners working in children's and adult's social services, and people that use these services and their carers.
- Cost-saving medical technologies and diagnostic agent reviews help facilitate speedy and consistent access to and use of these technologies in the NHS.
- Interventional procedures guidance recommends whether interventional procedures, such as laser treatments for eye problems or deep brain stimulation for chronic pain, are effective and safe enough for use in the NHS.
- Public health guidance covers disease prevention, health improvement and health protection and has influenced policy and practice in the NHS and local government on many of the big issues in today's society such as smoking, obesity, physical exercise, alcohol misuse and accident prevention. We also produce briefings for local government to help them in their public health roles.

### Quality standards and other performance metrics

Quality Standards are concise sets of statements, with accompanying metrics, designed to drive and measure priority quality improvements within a particular area of care. They are derived from the best available evidence, particularly NICE's own guidance and, where this do not exist, from

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other evidence sources accredited by NICE.

Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF). NICE undertakes the development of an annual menu of potential indicators for inclusion in the clinical component of the QOF, the quality element of the contract the NHS has with General Practitioners. We also recommend whether existing indicators should continue or be retired.

Clinical Commissioning Group Outcomes Indicator Set (CCGOIS). Working with the NHS Commissioning Board, as well as with professional and patient groups, we have developed a framework for measuring health outcomes and the quality of care (including patient reported outcomes and patient experience) achieved by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs).

### Information services

We commission and provide access to a range of information services to ensure that health and social care professionals have quick and easy access to reliable information. This includes:

- NICE Evidence, an online search engine that identifies relevant clinical, public health and social care guidance. As part of the service, NICE also provides access to information content purchased on behalf of the NHS. This includes access to a range of bibliographic databases such as MEDLINE, and professional journals.
- British National Formulary (BNF) and British National Formulary for Children (BNFC), published jointly by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the British Medical Association. For a number of years, NICE has been responsible for providing the NHS access to these publications, including recently through the use of smartphone apps.
- Medicines and prescribing support; information about new pharmaceutical products; and information about the use of particular products outside the scope of their licensed indications. This includes Good Practice Guidance to support best practice in medicines management, including practical advice on developing and maintaining local medicines formularies.

### Fellows and Scholars

Our Fellows and Scholars programme aims to foster a network of health and social care professionals committed to improving the quality of patient care within their local

health and professional communities, as well as supporting the core values that underpin NICE's work.

### NICE International

NICE International was set up by NICE's Board about five years ago in order to address a growing demand by policy makers from overseas for input and advice on how to improve the quality and efficiency of their own health-care systems through more efficient and equitable resource allocation decisions. The NHS has always served as a model for countries striving to achieve and sustain universal healthcare coverage, and NICE has been viewed as an integral part of the NHS's success in offering good quality affordable services to its population, whilst spending less than most Western economies (about a third of what the US spends) and maintaining a vibrant and innovative home-grown healthcare products industry. NICE International is responsive and addresses colleagues' requests in a professional way, working alongside the core business of NICE, which focuses on the UK and the NHS. A second objective was to serve our government's priorities in global health, including those of the Department of Health and of the NHS (the recent Innovation Health and Wealth makes international activity almost a requirement for NHS organisations), the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; we have strong links with all three government departments. Finally, through NICE International, we are able to forge good working relationships with fellow policy makers and healthcare professionals from around the world and bring our experience back to NICE and the NHS to improve the way we do things in the UK.

NICE International - which operates on a strict not-for-profit, basis and is funded by grants - also carries out important research activities such as generating case-studies, preparing tools to help data analysis, and encouraging shared learning through international meetings.

We receive active support from the Rockefeller Foundation and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as our own Department for International Development and have strong partnerships with major emerging economies, including Brazil, Mexico and Colombia and with the Pan American Health Organisation.

For further information, please go to [www.nice.org.uk/niceinternational](http://www.nice.org.uk/niceinternational) and [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

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