**The Use of NICE Guidance**

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# Introduction

## Policy statement

The purpose of this document is to detail how Sheerwater Health Centre receives, communicates and adheres to the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)](https://www.nice.org.uk/) guidance to improve patient outcomes and enhance service delivery.

This document applies to all clinical staff working within the organisation as it explains how quality improvements can be made to service delivery by implementing the evidence-based recommendations issued by NICE and other evidence sources accredited by NICE.

NICE curates a [Shared Learning Collection](https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/into-practice/shared-learning-case-studies) to showcase the successful implementation of its guidelines and standards, leading to improved services. Although available, the collection is no longer updated.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the CQC’s [GP Mythbuster 45: Quality Standards in general practice](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/gp-mythbuster-45-nice-quality-standards-general-practice).

## Status

The organisation aims to design and implement policies and procedures that meet the diverse needs of our service and workforce, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others, in accordance with the [Equality Act 2010](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents). Consideration has been given to the impact this policy might have regarding the individual protected characteristics of those to whom it applies.

This document and any procedures contained within it are non-contractual and may be modified or withdrawn at any time. For the avoidance of doubt, it does not form part of your contract of employment. Furthermore, this document applies to all employees of the organisation and other individuals performing functions in relation to the organisation such as agency workers, locums and contractors.

# Policy

## About NICE guidance

[NICE guidance](https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/our-programmes/nice-guidance) uses the best available evidence to develop recommendations that guide decisions in health, public health and social care and the guidance consists of the following:

* Guidelines
* Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines
* Technology appraisals guidance
* Interventional procedures guidance
* Medical technologies guidance
* Diagnostics guidance
* Highly specialised technologies guidance

Detailed descriptions of the above are available using the link.

## NICE Quality Standards (QS)

When the CQC inspect GP organisations they will be looking for evidence of high quality patient care against appropriate quality standards as indicated in the [CQC GP Mythbuster 45: NICE Quality Standards in general practice](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/gp-mythbuster-45-nice-quality-standards-general-practice).

NICE quality standards (QS) are a set of standards that are developed independently in collaboration with health and social care professionals, practitioners and service users. The standards address priority areas where there may be a variation in the quality of care provided. Each standard includes a set of statements and information about how to measure progress. They usually summarise key recommendations for improving aspects of care.

The QS cover common conditions managed in primary care plus topics beyond the scope of the Quality Outcomes Framework.

See the full list of [NICE quality standards](https://www.nice.org.uk/standards-and-indicators/quality-standards-topic-library).

## NICE subscription options

NICE has a range of services that organisations can subscribe to:

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| --- | --- |
| **Subscription** | **Details** |
| [Update for primary care](https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts/subscribe-to-update-for-primary-care) | The latest primary care news and guidance from NICE for GPs and others working in primary care |
| [Medicines and prescribing alerts](https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts/subscribe-to-medicine-and-prescribing-alerts) | These are issued each time new information is published by the NICE medicines and prescribing team |
| [Medicines and prescribing important new evidence](https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts/subscribe-to-medicines-and-prescribing-important-new-evidence) | Details information from key national bodies including NICE, [SIGN](https://www.sign.ac.uk/) and the [MHRA](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency) |
| [NICE news for health and social care](https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts/subscribe-to-nice-news) | Provides monthly guidance, features and news |
| [NICE news for life sciences](https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts/subscribe-to-nice-news-for-life-sciences) | Details quarterly news updating those within the life sciences industry |
| [Medicines awareness service](https://nice.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7864f766b10b8edd18f19aa56&id=ea7a83a510) | Provides a quick overview of the latest evidence-based information to help health professionals remain current |
| [NICE news international](https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts/subscribe-to-nice-news-international) | Provides the latest news and updates on global partnerships. |

## Rationale for using the guidance

To provide demonstrable evidence to the CQC that this organisation adheres to extant, evidence-based guidance, a record must be retained to show how pertinent information is disseminated within the organisation.

## NICE guidance actions

All clinicians should receive monthly updates from NICE emailed directly to them. Additionally, and as detailed in [Section 2.3](#_NICE_subscription_options), the management team should also sign up to receive these.

Should any guidance be received that requires immediate action, the Practice Manager is to speak to the most appropriate member of staff bringing the matter to their immediate attention.

All NICE guidance and matters of interest will be discussed at the next clinicians’ meeting which is held regularly. All minutes of the meetings are recorded as evidence of compliance.

Should a change to clinical organisation be required, the nominated clinician is to liaise with the Practice Manager to facilitate a change in organisation policy. A link to the amended policy is to be emailed to staff as soon as the policy is finalised.

Where guidance affects patients, e.g., the withdrawal of certain medicines, a search is to be conducted to determine which patients are affected. In conjunction with the clinical team, it will be determined as to what intervention is required and how this will be achieved. All relevant information is to be recorded in the individuals’ healthcare records and appropriately read coded.

As it is likely that medicine-related guidance will affect the patients of most clinicians, the action plan and actions taken are to be communicated via email to those staff who are absent.