

# NICE checklist for primary care



## 5 actions for a primary care provider

### ① Consider a nominated lead for the use and dissemination of NICE guidance and resources.

Hints and tips:

- Identifying a person to coordinate local activities around NICE guidance and related resources as they are published supports implementation.
- Any member of the wider practice team could be the NICE lead, with the full support and commitment of the practice, such as the practice manager.
- Responsibilities of the NICE Lead could include keeping up to date with NICE guidance, quality standards and implementation support tools as they are published and ensuring they are assessed for relevance to the practice; raising awareness of these to all practice staff and supporting action plans for changes identified as a result.

Notes:

### ② Have a system in place to raise practice staff awareness of relevant NICE guidance and advice.

Hints and tips:

- Encourage staff to sign up to receive the monthly [Update for Primary Care newsletter](#), which is tailored for general practice.
- Practice staff including GP trainees could take it in turn each month to assess the relevance of newly published guidance for the practice, and to summarise and disseminate the information to colleagues.
- Consider using local medicines management support or your practice pharmacist.
- For guidance in development, practices can ensure the general practice perspective is considered through [registering the practice as a stakeholder](#) and commenting on draft recommendations during the consultation phase.

Notes:

### **③ Review and act upon relevant NICE guidance, and use of implementation support resources at team level.**

Hints and tips:

- Discuss the relevance to services offered by the practice.
- Explore whether current practice is in line with guidance recommendations.
- Where change in practice is recommended, consider use of implementation support resources.
- Share ideas on the best ways to implement the recommendations and to express concerns and find solutions at practice or PCN level.
- Have a simple plan to make the changes identified and agree how changes in practice, outcomes and improvement will be measured, recorded and fed back to practice staff.

Notes:

### **④ Check that implementation has been effective and that improvements have been made.**

Hints and tips:

- NICE's baseline assessment tools have been developed to support users to assess whether relevant recommendations are being implemented within their service. These can be found under the tools and resources tab of the relevant guideline webpage and enable visibility of gaps in service for action planning, and evidence of assurance for CQC.
- The [NICE quality standards](#) may be a good place to start as they highlight priority areas for quality improvement. They include a rationale and provide suggested measures, making them auditable for CQC assurance of ongoing improvement, or for CPD.
- Keep monitoring proportionate to the change being made.

Notes:

### **⑤ Use NICE guidance and resources in your practice education and training activities.**

See page 3 for our list of **supporting resources for practices**.

Notes:

# Supporting resources for practices

- [The NICE website homepage](http://www.nice.org.uk) (www.nice.org.uk).
- [Practical support for general practice](http://www.nice.org.uk/gp) (www.nice.org.uk/gp) - a dedicated section of the NICE website tailored for general practice professionals, built with the help of GPs practice nurses and practice managers.
- [Update for primary care newsletter](#) - a monthly e-newsletter for GPs and others working in primary care. Features guidance, standards and other advice products published that month of direct relevance to primary care, along with any accompanying tools to help put guidance into practice. Also helps keep you up to date with NICE work relevant to primary care, such as the Quality and Outcomes Framework or educational and learning materials.
- [NICE Clinical knowledge summaries](#) (CKS) - a readily accessible summary of the current evidence base and practical guidance on best practice in respect of over 300 common and/or significant primary care presentations.
- [NICE medicines and prescribing associate programme](#) - supports and promotes high quality, safe, cost-effective prescribing and medicines optimisation. Associates develop and support networks of affiliates in their local health economies (including general practices and other primary care settings). They share and exchange information supporting the adoption of NICE and other high-quality guidance into practice, reducing inappropriate variation in prescribing across localities, highlighting issues of medicines safety, and supporting the local managed introduction of new medicines.
- [NHSE Quality and outcomes framework guidance for 2025/26](#). This will help you to meet your QoF target.
- [NICE's Into Practice Guide](#) - practical steps to improving the quality of care and services using NICE guidance, including helpful tips, links to resources and case examples. The visual below shows the most common steps taken when putting evidence-based guidance into practice.

