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Topics for new NICE quality standards and guidance to improve the quality of social care

Consultation Document

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Topics for new NICE quality standards and guidance to improve the quality of social care

Consultation document

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1. Introduction

What is NICE?

1. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance and advice for health and social care. Evidence-based guidance and other products from NICE help resolve uncertainty about best quality care and what represents value for money. The 2012 Health and Social Care Act, establishes it in primary legislation as an England only body and extends NICE's remit to adults' and children's social care

What is its role?

2. NICE guidance supports health and care professionals and others to make sure that the care they provide is of the best possible quality and offers the best value for money.
3. NICE guidance is for the NHS, local authorities, charities, and anyone with a responsibility for commissioning or providing healthcare, public health or social care services. They also support these groups in putting this guidance into practice.
4. NICE does not decide on the topics for their guidance and standards. Instead, topics are referred to them by the NHS Commissioning Board for clinical topics and Department of Health in collaboration with the Department for education for social care based topics.

Improving quality

5. NICE quality standards are central to supporting the Government's vision for an NHS and social care system focussed on delivering the best possible outcomes for people who use services, as detailed in the Health and Social Care Act (2012)¹.
6. The "Caring for our future" White Paper² states that *from April 2013 onwards, in consultation with the care and support sector, care users, their families and carers, NICE will develop a library of quality standards and guidance to improve the quality of social care. By creating a library of social care quality standards we will provide commissioners and providers with evidence-based descriptions of what good care and support should look like. This will also help people using care and support, carers and families to understand what they should expect.*
7. The "library", mentioned above, will be a fuller list of topics to improve social care that will be referred to NICE for the production of quality standards and guidance.

¹ Health and Social Care Act (2012) - <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/06/act-explained/>

² Department of Health - 'Caring for our future' White Paper - www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/careandsupportwhitepaper/

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8. NICE and the Care Quality Commission will work together to ensure that related standards (whether quality or regulatory) are complementary.
9. NICE's work will also look to improve the quality of the interface between social care and health services.

2. NICE's work programme on social care

Joint NHS/social care quality standard pilots

10. NICE is currently piloting the development of two joint NHS/social care quality standards for use in England. These are:

- **Dementia: supporting people to live well with dementia**
 - Around 800,000 people in the UK currently have dementia. Due to an ageing population, it is likely that numbers will grow, with one in three people over 65 thought to develop the condition.
 - Research shows that more than a third of people with dementia said they only sometimes receive support, with many also requesting that services are better designed around their needs.
 - To help improve the care of people with dementia, the quality standard will be made up of a number of statements which together set out a vision of high quality care.

- **Health and wellbeing of looked after children**
 - Applications to take children into care have hit record highs, reaching 10,000 for the first time this year, with the needs of those requiring care often being complex and met by a range of care services over different settings.
 - While children leaving care go on to have good jobs and careers, around 60% of those being looked after in England have been reported to have emotional and mental health problems.
 - To help improve the quality of care of looked-after children and young people, the quality standard will be made up of a number of statements that together set out a vision of high quality care.

11. The draft standards were made available for consultation from August 2012 to October 2012 and comments received are currently being used to shape the final quality standards. The planned publication for these two quality standards is April 2013

Further referrals to NICE

12. Based on work with NICE and use of social care/NHS evidence bases the Department of Health and Department for Education have agreed and referred an initial list of joint NHS/social care quality standard topics for NICE to begin scoping work on from April 2013.

These include:

- autism in adults and children
- mental well-being of older people in residential care
- the transition between health and social care, including discharge planning, admission avoidance, reducing readmissions and reducing unnecessary bed occupancy

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- medicines management in care homes
 - management of physical and mental co-morbidities of older people in community and residential care settings.
 - domiciliary care
 - transition between children and adult services
 - child maltreatment.
13. This initial list was drawn from the engagement exercise on the library of health care quality standards as well as through discussions and engagement with the care and support sector and priority areas for action emerging from the Department of Health, 'Caring for our future' White Paper
14. NICE will shortly commence work to define the titles and content for these topics.
15. NICE expects that the standards on autism and mental well-being of older people in residential care will be published in 2013/14 with other quality standards published later. NICE have appointed SCIE and its partner organisations as its social care collaborating centre to support the development, adoption and dissemination of its social care guidance and quality standards from 1 April 2013.

3. Consultation

16. This consultation will be open for 12 weeks and is a way for the Department of Health to share and seek ideas for potential future guidance and quality standards for this list from the people who will benefit from their development and implementation. This includes commissioners, providers, front line staff, service users and carers.

List of potential guidance and standards

17. NICE, work in collaboration with an external reference group and a group of social care fellows. The external reference group is made up of people who work in organisations that use NICE guidance and standards and the social care fellows are a groups of social care professionals who advise and support NICE in the development of work in this area.

18. In collaboration with both groups NICE has produced a list of potential topics for guidance and quality standards that they could work on from 2015 onwards to help improve quality in social care. They considered areas where guidance/standards would be beneficial to the topic, the existing evidence-based guidance that could be used for the topics and social care priorities and pressures.

19. This list (see below), should be considered as part of this consultation.

Potential future social care topics

(Proposed) Short title	Long title
Continuing care	Managing the health and social care needs of people ¹ whose care is funded by the NHS in care homes and the community ²
Deprivation of liberty safeguards	Protecting adults who do not have the ability to make decisions about their care from being inappropriately deprived of their liberty in care homes and hospitals
Falls	Reducing and managing falls in adults in care homes and the community ²
Homelessness	Supporting the health and social care needs of people ¹ who are homeless
Substance misuse	Supporting children and young people, and their families, dealing with substance misuse in the community ²
Learning disabilities	Supporting the social care needs of people ¹ with learning disabilities

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	in care homes and the community ²
Medicines management in home-based settings	Supporting adults to manage their medicines in the community ²
Pain management	Managing pain for people ¹ in the community ²
Pressure sore care	Preventing and managing pressure sores in adults in care homes and the community ²
Promoting continence	Promoting continence and managing incontinence in adults in care homes and the community ²
Reablement	Promoting independence in adults following deterioration in health or increase in support needs in care homes and the community ²
Service user experience	Improving the experience of care for people ¹ using social care services in care homes and the community ²
Sexuality, sexual identity and intimacy within the context of social care	Respecting sexuality, sexual identity and intimacy needs in adults and young people in care homes and the community ²
Social isolation	Preventing social isolation for people ¹ who use care services in the community ²
Young carers	Promoting wellbeing in children and young people who provide care to a family member in the community ²
Attachment and permanence	Promoting permanence for adopted children and all children with attachment disorder issues across health and social care

1 People = adults, children and young people

2 Community = people's own homes and community based activities

Web based consultation

20. The first stage of this consultation is an on-line survey, seeking views on the initial list mentioned above of potential future quality standards and any ideas for new social care topics that aren't listed.
21. Suggested topics do not have to be purely social care focused and can include other elements such as health or public health, for example autism in adults and children, which has already been referred to NICE can span more than one sector.
22. We welcome comments from all and in particular those who use, provide or commission social care services

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Further engagement with the sector

23. The second stage of the consultation, which runs alongside the first, is engagement with the sector, taking place from January to April. These sessions will be held in conjunction with NICE and will be focussed exploratory discussion.

The consultation questions

Q1. Do you agree with the initial list of future quality standards proposed in the consultation document (pages 10 -11)?

Q2. Which ones do you disagree with?

Q3. Why do you disagree with the topic/s?

Q4. Are there any titles/topics that should be amended and in what way?

Q5. Are there any potential equality issues with these topics that may affect a particular protected characteristic group?

Q6. Are there any other topics you would like to see considered that aren't in the list?

Q7. What are the reasons for your suggestions?

The consultation process

The consultation principles can be found on the Cabinet Office's website at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

The principles inform Government departments of the considerations that should be made during consultation. These include consideration of the subjects of consultation, the timing of consultation, making information useful and accessible, and transparency and feedback.

Comments on the consultation process itself

If you have concerns or comments which you would like to make relating specifically to the consultation process itself please

Contact Consultations Coordinator
 i. Department of Health
 ii. 2E08, Quarry House
 iii. Leeds

iv. LS2 7UE

E-mail consultations.co-ordinator@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Please do not send consultation responses to this address.

Confidentiality of information

We manage the information you provide in response to this consultation in accordance with the Department of Health's Information Charter³.

Information we receive, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and, in most circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Summary of the consultation

A summary of the response to this consultation will be made available before or alongside any further action, such as laying legislation before Parliament, and will be placed on the Consultations website at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/index.htm>

³ Department of Health's Information Charter - transparency.dh.gov.uk/dataprotection/information-charter/

4. Outcomes

What next?

24. There will be further work for the Department of Health and NICE to decide which of the suggested topics is viable as guidance or a quality standard. We cannot guarantee that all suggested topics will be taken forward as it is dependent on a number of factors, such as the existing evidence base on a subject but they will be considered and their suitability tested.
25. The topics will be tested against the existing social care evidence base but their viability will also be dependent upon sector/Government priorities.