

# NHS Kent & Medway Medicines Optimisation Group

## Recent NICE publications – October 2023

### FOR INFORMATION

#### NICE Publications

#### NICE clinical guidelines

##### [Otitis media with effusion in under 12s Published August 2023](#)

This guideline covers identifying and managing otitis media with effusion (OME), also known as ‘glue ear’, in children younger than 12 years. It aims to improve hearing and quality of life in children with OME.

##### [Spinal metastases and metastatic spinal cord compression Published September 2023](#)

This guideline covers recognition, referral, investigation and management of spinal metastases and metastatic spinal cord compression (MSCC). It is also relevant for direct malignant infiltration of the spine and associated cord compression. It aims to improve early diagnosis and treatment to prevent neurological injury and improve prognosis.

##### [Intrapartum care Published September 2023](#)

This guideline covers the care of women and their babies during labour and immediately after birth. It focuses on women who give birth between 37 and 42 weeks of pregnancy (‘term’). The guideline helps women to make informed choices about where to have their baby and about their care in labour. It also aims to reduce variation in aspects of care.

#### Updated NICE Clinical Guidelines

##### [Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage: diagnosis and initial management Updated August 2023](#)

This guideline covers diagnosing and managing ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage in women with complications, such as pain and bleeding, in early pregnancy (that is, up to 13 completed weeks of pregnancy). It aims to improve how early pregnancy loss is diagnosed, and the support women are given, to limit the psychological impact of their loss. For information on related topics, see [women's and reproductive health summary page](#).

In **August 2023**, NICE reviewed the evidence and made new and updated recommendations on medical management of miscarriage.

##### [Caesarean birth Updated September 2023](#)

This guideline covers when to offer and discuss caesarean birth, procedural aspects of the operation, and care after caesarean birth. It aims to improve the consistency and quality of care for women and pregnant people who are thinking about having a caesarean birth or have had a caesarean birth in the past and are now pregnant again.

In **September 2023**, NICE updated the recommendations on the use of neuraxial opioids for postoperative pain relief, and monitoring for women and pregnant people who have had neuraxial opioids.

##### [Cirrhosis in over 16s: assessment and management Updated September 2023](#)

This guideline covers assessing and managing suspected or confirmed cirrhosis in people who are 16 years or older. It aims to improve how cirrhosis is identified and diagnosed, and gives advice on the monitoring, prevention and early management of complications.

In **September 2023**, NICE reviewed the evidence and made new or updated recommendations on safe prescribing and use of carvedilol and propranolol in people with cirrhosis, detecting and preventing bleeding from medium or large varices, preventing spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, and primary prevention of decompensation. For more details, see the [update information](#).

### [Acute kidney injury: prevention, detection and management Updated September 2023](#)

This guideline covers preventing, detecting and managing acute kidney injury in children, young people and adults. It aims to improve assessment and detection by non-specialists, and specifies when people should be referred to specialist services. This will improve early recognition and treatment, and reduce the risk of complications in people with acute kidney injury.

In **September 2023**, NICE amended recommendations on offering iodine-based contrast media to adults to clarify that, for non-emergency imaging, an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) measurement is only needed if the person is at increased risk of kidney injury. See the [update information](#) for details.

### [Ovarian cancer: recognition and initial management Updated October 2023](#)

This guideline covers detecting, diagnosing and treating women (18 years and older) who have, or are suspected of having, epithelial ovarian cancer, fallopian tube cancer, primary peritoneal cancer or borderline ovarian cancer. It aims to enable earlier detection of ovarian cancer and improve initial treatment.

In **October 2023**, NICE updated recommendations on suspected cancer pathway referrals from primary care in line with [NHS England's standard on faster diagnosis of cancer](#). People should have a diagnosis or ruling out of cancer within 28 days of referral.

### [Urinary incontinence in neurological disease: assessment and management Updated October 2023](#)

This guideline covers assessing and managing urinary incontinence in children, young people and adults with neurological disease. It aims to improve care by recommending specific treatments based on what symptoms and neurological conditions people have.

In **October 2023**, NICE updated the recommendation on suspected cancer pathway referral for possible bladder cancer in line with [NHS England's standard on faster diagnosis of cancer](#). People should have a diagnosis or ruling out of cancer within 28 days of referral.

### [Hearing loss in adults: assessment and management Updated October 2023](#)

This guideline covers some aspects of assessing and managing hearing loss in primary, community and secondary care. It aims to improve the quality of life for adults with hearing loss by advising healthcare staff on assessing hearing difficulties, managing earwax and referring people for audiological or specialist assessment and management.

The guideline covers adults aged over 18, including adults whose age of onset of hearing loss was under 18 but who present for the first time in adulthood.

In **October 2023**, NICE updated the recommendation on considering suspected cancer pathway referral for adults of Chinese or south-east Asian family origin with hearing loss and a middle ear effusion not associated with an upper respiratory tract infection in line with [NHS England's standard on faster diagnosis of cancer](#). People should have a diagnosis or ruling out of cancer within 28 days of referral.

### [Suspected neurological conditions: recognition and referral Updated October 2023](#)

This guideline covers the initial assessment of symptoms and signs that might indicate a neurological condition. It helps non-specialist healthcare professionals to identify people who should be offered referral for specialist investigation.

In **October 2023**, NICE updated recommendations on suspected cancer pathway referrals for facial pain, gait unsteadiness and single limb weakness or hemiparesis in line with [NHS England's standard on faster diagnosis of cancer](#). People should have a diagnosis or ruling out of cancer within 28 days of referral.

### [Suspected cancer: recognition and referral Updated October 2023](#)

This guideline covers identifying children, young people and adults with symptoms that could be caused by cancer. It outlines appropriate investigations in primary care, and selection of people to refer for a specialist opinion. It aims to help people understand what to expect if they have symptoms that may suggest cancer.

We have used the terms 'men' and 'women' in some recommendations on gender-related cancers, but they also apply to people who have changed or are in the process of changing gender, and who retain the relevant organs.

In **October 2023**, NICE updated recommendations on suspected cancer pathway referrals in line with [NHS England's standard on faster diagnosis of cancer](#). People should have a diagnosis or ruling out of cancer within 28 days of referral.

## NICE Quality Standards

No New NICE Quality Standards

## Updated NICE Quality Standards

### [Spinal metastases and metastatic spinal cord compression Updated September 2023](#)

This quality standard covers diagnosis and management of spinal metastases and metastatic spinal cord compression. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement.

In **September 2023**, changes were made to align this quality standard with the updated [NICE guideline on spinal metastases and metastatic spinal cord compression](#). Statement 1 on information about recognising the symptoms of metastatic spinal cord compression for adults at high risk has been removed because it is no longer supported by the guideline recommendations. See [update information](#) for more details.

### [Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in adults Updated September 2023](#)

This quality standard covers assessing, diagnosing and managing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement.

It does not cover COPD prevention, screening or case finding. Support and access to services to help people stop smoking are covered in [NICE's quality standard on tobacco](#).

In **September 2023**, statement 8 (a placeholder statement) was developed into a full statement, and statement 5 was removed and included as an element of statement 8. For more details, see [update information](#).