

## **Pro-forma for consultation on public health quality standards library**

### ***Overview***

NICE quality standards are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care. They are developed from existing guidelines developed or accredited by NICE. Quality standards consider the complete care pathway, from public health to health and social care. Although some standards will be area specific, there will often be significant overlap across areas and these are considered during development of the standard.

Following the new public health responsibilities for local authorities, which came into effect in April 2013, NICE was referred an initial programme of quality standards for public health, which covered alcohol, obesity and smoking. These were in addition to referrals NICE had previously received for quality standard development which addressed areas of public health concern, such as drug use disorders. We have included the currently referred and published public health related quality standards for information.

This consultation aims to seek views on potential further topics for quality standard development to help improve the quality of public health. Where there are no existing relevant guidelines, this topic list will inform the development of future guidelines. As a result, the scheduling and publication dates of the quality standards will be affected by the availability of appropriate guidance. We are hoping to collect your views on an initial proposed list and any other areas you feel need to be included. The consultation will be open from **the 27<sup>th</sup> September until the 20<sup>th</sup> of December**.

Each proposed topic will be considered, but it is not possible to guarantee that all of these topics will be taken forward for development as this is dependent on a number of elements such as the crossover and interface with other quality standards topics scheduled for production, existing evidence based guidance and sector/Government priorities.

Organisation	<b>Institute of Air Quality Management</b>
Title (e.g. Dr, Mr, Ms, Prof)	<b>Mr</b>
Name	Roger Barrowcliffe
Job title or role	Chairman
Address and post code	c/o Institution of Environmental Sciences 2nd Floor 34 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0DH
Telephone number	07764 612323
Email address	clear.air.thinking@gmail.com
<b>Please note:</b> comments submitted may be published on the NICE website.	

The personal data submitted on this form will be used by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for the purpose specified. The information will not be passed to any other third party and will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

## **General comments**

Please use the section below to include any general comments your organisation may have about the proposed public health library.

The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) is the professional body that represents practitioners working within the fields of air quality science, air quality assessment and air quality management in the UK. It aims to be the authoritative voice for air quality by maintaining, enhancing and promoting the highest standards of working practices in the field and for the professional development of those who undertake this work. Our organisation has, therefore, a particular interest in including outdoor air as a quality standard, as it has been in the health profiles prepared for PCTs in recent years.

It has been shown beyond reasonable doubt that outdoor air quality is associated with substantial effects on mortality and morbidity in the UK, at a level that is greater than is associated with obesity or alcohol and similar to passive smoking. For this reason, it is essential that outdoor air quality is recognised as a determinant of health and included as a standard.

The exposure of most people to airborne pollutants occurs predominantly in indoor environments, where we spend most of our time. It might seem logical, therefore, to also include indoor air quality as a standard. IAQM is not against this in principle, but recognises that it is much harder to set a standard for indoor air quality and also to obtain good data on indoor concentrations in a variety of settings on a routine basis. Also, occupational exposure standards are substantially different to ambient air quality standards, allowing much higher concentrations, and it would be very difficult in practice to impose standards for indoor air quality based on ambient air quality standards.

Further, concentrations of many indoor airborne pollutants are driven by outdoor concentrations, so that control of the latter will lead to improvements in indoor air quality with respect to the key pollutants, many of which are road traffic related. The most important pollutant to be measured and reported is likely to be PM<sub>2.5</sub>, although it should be recognised that in the future it may become more important to regulate concentrations of ultrafine particles measured by number concentrations, rather than by mass.

### ***Proposed topics for the public health quality standards library***

The table below lists the proposed topics for the public health quality standards library. It should be noted that the proposed list does contain topic areas which have previously been referred to NICE or that have been consulted upon as part of the potential Social Care library. In these instances the proposed coverage of the topic and the interfaces with health and social care will be taken into account when considering stakeholder feedback. Stakeholders are asked to consider the list below and provide the following feedback:

- Should the topic be included (Yes/No)?
- Why should the topic be included/excluded?
- If it is to be included what key areas should be covered?

In order to analyse the responses we would appreciate it if stakeholders could answer either yes or no to the first question and provide a more detailed rationale in the subsequent columns.

Proposed Topic	Should this be included within the quality standards library? (Yes/No)	Why should this be included/excluded?	If included what are the key areas to cover?
Outdoor air: maintaining good quality air	Yes	AQ is a major determinant of health and is associated with substantial mortality and morbidity effects on the population. The IAQM would be happy to provide additional consultation expertise if needed.	Concentrations of PM <sub>2.5</sub> and NO <sub>2</sub> .

**Closing date:** Please forward this electronically by **5pm on the 20th December 2013** at the very latest to [QSconsultations@nice.org.uk](mailto:QSconsultations@nice.org.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Institute reserves the right to summarise and edit comments received during consultations, or not to publish them at all, where in the reasonable opinion of the Institute, the comments are voluminous, publication would be unlawful or publication would be otherwise inappropriate.