



National Quality Board

NHS
**National Institute for
Health and Clinical Excellence**

Dear Colleague

National Quality Board engagement exercise on the library of NICE Quality Standard NHS healthcare topics

Delivering continuous improvement in the quality of care for patients and service users is at the centre of the Government's plans for health and social care.

Everyone has an important role to play; it is clinicians working at the frontline who have both the expertise and opportunity to improve the quality of care and it is the responsibility of the wider system to provide a framework that supports and enables them to do this.

It is within this enabling framework that Quality Standards, developed and prepared by NICE, will have a key role to play. Positioned at the centre of the new commissioning architecture, the provisions in the *Health and Social Care Bill* will make Quality Standards an integral part of the proposed new duties of quality that will apply to the Secretary of State, NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups.

The National Quality Board (NQB) currently provides advice on the selection of topics for Quality Standard development, and its ambition is for there to be a broad and balanced library of Quality Standard topics with underpinning NICE guidelines, supporting delivery of the outcomes across all five domains of the NHS Outcomes Framework.

The purpose of this engagement exercise is to allow those with an interest in Quality Standards to become involved in helping to ensure the library is genuinely fit for purpose.

The proposed list of NHS healthcare topics for Quality Standard development, upon which the NQB would like your views, can be found at Annex A. The list was developed in partnership with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

In responding to the proposed list, the NQB is particularly keen to hear your views on the following:

- i. Are there any significant gaps or omissions in the proposed library? If so, what are they?
- ii. Of the topics in the proposed library, are there any aspects of the care pathway or clinical area that it would be particularly important for the Quality Standard to address?
- iii. Are there any other cross-cutting topics that address health improvement and / or patient experience issues for which a Quality Standard would be of benefit?
- iv. Which are the topics where the interface with social care is particularly important and should be considered in developing the quality standard?
- v. What are your views on the Quality Standards published to date?

Details of how to respond can be found on NICE's website <http://www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/NQBEngagement.jsp>, together with the methodology that was used to select the topics in the proposed list. More information about Quality Standards and their role in the new system can be found at Annex B.

The engagement exercise closes on October 14th and we look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely



Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE
NHS Chief Executive



Sir Michael Rawlins
NICE Chairman