

Public health topic selection

NICE considers suggested topics at quarterly internal topic selection group meetings to assess whether they meet NICE's remit.

➤ [Read more about selecting public health topics](#)

- Topics are suggested. These can be broad topic areas, or specific suggestions. It is important that topics are relevant and timely, and that they address priority issues that will help to improve the health of the population. The topic selection process also ensures that the selection of public health and clinical guidance topics is coordinated.
- NICE considers suggested topics at quarterly internal topic selection group meetings to assess whether they meet NICE's remit.
- NICE produces a background briefing paper for those topics that meet the remit (see [section 2.2](#) of [Methods for the development of NICE public health guidance - third edition](#) (2012)).
- NICE convenes a topic advisory workshop (TAW) of experts and stakeholders, including Public Health England and the Department of Health, where the briefing paper and areas for draft referrals are agreed (see [section 2.2.4](#) of [Methods for the development of NICE public health guidance - third edition](#) (2012)).
- NICE conducts an internal check to ensure a good fit between proposed public health topics and any related clinical topics.
- Draft referrals are discussed with policy leads at the Department of Health, who then prepare a submission to ministers for formal consideration.
- Once ministers have considered the submission, 1 or more formal ministerial referrals may be made to NICE to develop public health guidance in the topic area.
- Final responsibility for public health guidance referrals remains with the Secretary of State for Health
- Referral is then added to NICE website.