

Endometriosis: diagnosis and management

NICE guideline

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www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng73

Your responsibility

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

All problems (adverse events) related to a medicine or medical device used for treatment or in a procedure should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency using the [Yellow Card Scheme](#).

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should [assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations](#) wherever possible.

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This guideline is the basis of QS172.

Overview

This guideline covers diagnosing and managing endometriosis. It aims to raise awareness of the symptoms of endometriosis, and to provide clear advice on what action to take when women and people with signs and symptoms first present in healthcare settings. It also provides advice on the range of treatments available.

This guideline updates and replaces the recommendations on endometriosis in [NICE's guideline on fertility problems](#), which includes recommendations on fertility tests and treatments such as assisted reproduction.

Who is it for?

- Healthcare professionals
- Commissioners and providers
- Women and people with suspected or confirmed endometriosis, their families and carers

Recommendations

People have the right to be involved in discussions and make informed decisions about their care, as described in [NICE's information on making decisions about your care](#).

Using inclusive language in healthcare is important for safety, and to promote equity, respect and effective communication with everyone. This guideline does not use inclusive language in whole or in part because:

- the evidence has not been reviewed, and it is not certain from expert opinion which groups the advice covers, or
- the evidence has been reviewed, but the information available for some groups was too limited to make specific recommendations, or
- only a very limited number of recommendations have been updated in direct response to new evidence or to reflect a change in practice.

Healthcare professionals should use their clinical judgement when implementing recommendations, taking into account the individual's circumstances, needs and preferences, and ensuring all people are treated with dignity and respect throughout their care.

[Making decisions using NICE guidelines](#) explains how we use words to show the strength (or certainty) of our recommendations, and has information about prescribing medicines (including off-label use), professional guidelines, standards and laws (including on consent and mental capacity), and safeguarding.

NICE has also produced a [patient decision aid on hormonal treatment for endometriosis](#).

1.1 Organisation of care

1.1.1 Set up a [managed clinical network](#) for women with suspected or confirmed