

Chest pain overview

NICE Pathways bring together all NICE guidance, quality standards and other NICE information on a specific topic.

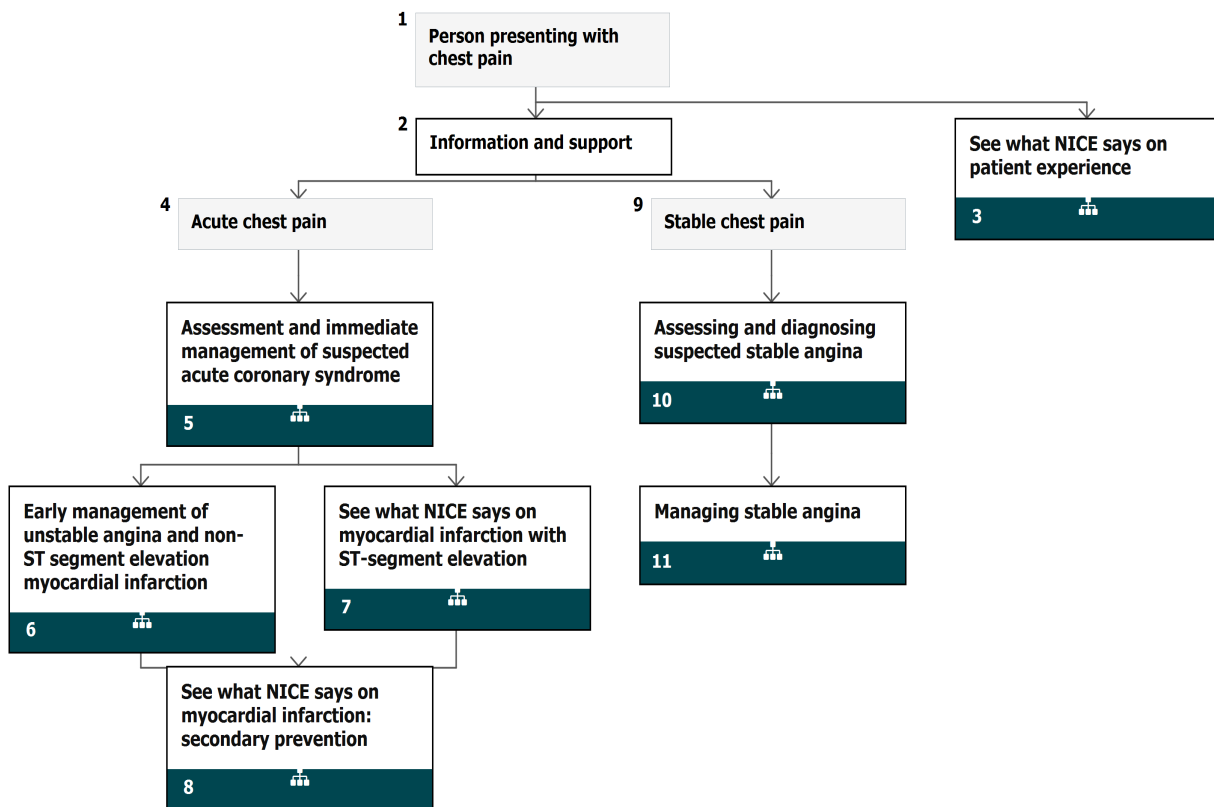
NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online. They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/chest-pain>

Pathway last updated: 08 June 2017

This document contains a single pathway diagram and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.

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1 Person presenting with chest pain

No additional information

2 Information and support

Discuss any concerns people (and where appropriate their family or carer/advocate) may have, including anxiety when the cause of the chest pain is unknown. Correct any misinformation.

Offer people a clear explanation of the possible causes of their symptoms and the uncertainties.

Clearly explain the options to people at every stage of investigation. Make joint decisions with them and take account of their preferences:

- Encourage people to ask questions.
- Provide repeated opportunities for discussion.
- Explain test results and the need for any further investigations.

Provide information about any proposed investigations using everyday, jargon-free language. Include:

- their purpose, benefits and any limitations of their diagnostic accuracy
- duration
- level of discomfort and invasiveness
- risk of adverse events.

Offer information about the risks of diagnostic testing, including any radiation exposure.

Address any physical or learning difficulties, sight or hearing problems and difficulties with speaking or reading English, which may affect people's understanding of the information offered.

Offer information after diagnosis as recommended in the relevant disease management guidelines. For example, see the recommendations on [early management of unstable angina and NSTEMI](#) and [managing stable angina](#), and what NICE says about [dyspepsia and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease](#) and [generalised anxiety disorder](#).

Explain if the chest pain is non-cardiac and refer people for further investigation if appropriate.

Provide individual advice to people about seeking medical help if they have further chest pain.

NICE has written information for the public explaining its guidance on [chest pain](#).

3 See what NICE says on patient experience

[See Patient experience in adult NHS services](#)

4 Acute chest pain

No additional information

5 Assessment and immediate management of suspected acute coronary syndrome

[See Chest pain / Assessment and immediate management of suspected acute coronary syndrome](#)

6 Early management of unstable angina and non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction

[See Chest pain / Early management of unstable angina and NSTEMI](#)

7 See what NICE says on myocardial infarction with ST-segment elevation

[See Myocardial infarction with ST-segment elevation](#)

8 See what NICE says on myocardial infarction: secondary prevention

[See Myocardial infarction: secondary prevention](#)

9 Stable chest pain

No additional information

10 Assessing and diagnosing suspected stable angina

[See Chest pain / Assessing and diagnosing suspected stable angina](#)

11 Managing stable angina

[See Chest pain / Managing stable angina](#)

ACE

angiotensin-converting enzyme

BIS

Bispectral Index

CABG

coronary artery bypass graft

ECG

electrocardiogram

EEG

electroencephalography

GRACE

Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events

GTN

glyceryl trinitrate

MPS with SPECT

myocardial perfusion scintigraphy with single photon emission CT

NSTEMI

non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction

PCI

percutaneous coronary intervention

SPECT

single photon emission CT

STEMI

ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction

ST-T

ST-segment-T-wave

Sources

[Chest pain of recent onset: assessment and diagnosis](#) (2010 updated 2016) NICE guideline CG95

Your responsibility

The guidance in this pathway represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. Those working in the NHS, local authorities, the wider public, voluntary and community sectors and the private sector should take it into account when carrying out their professional, managerial or voluntary duties. Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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