

Developmental follow-up of children and young people born preterm overview

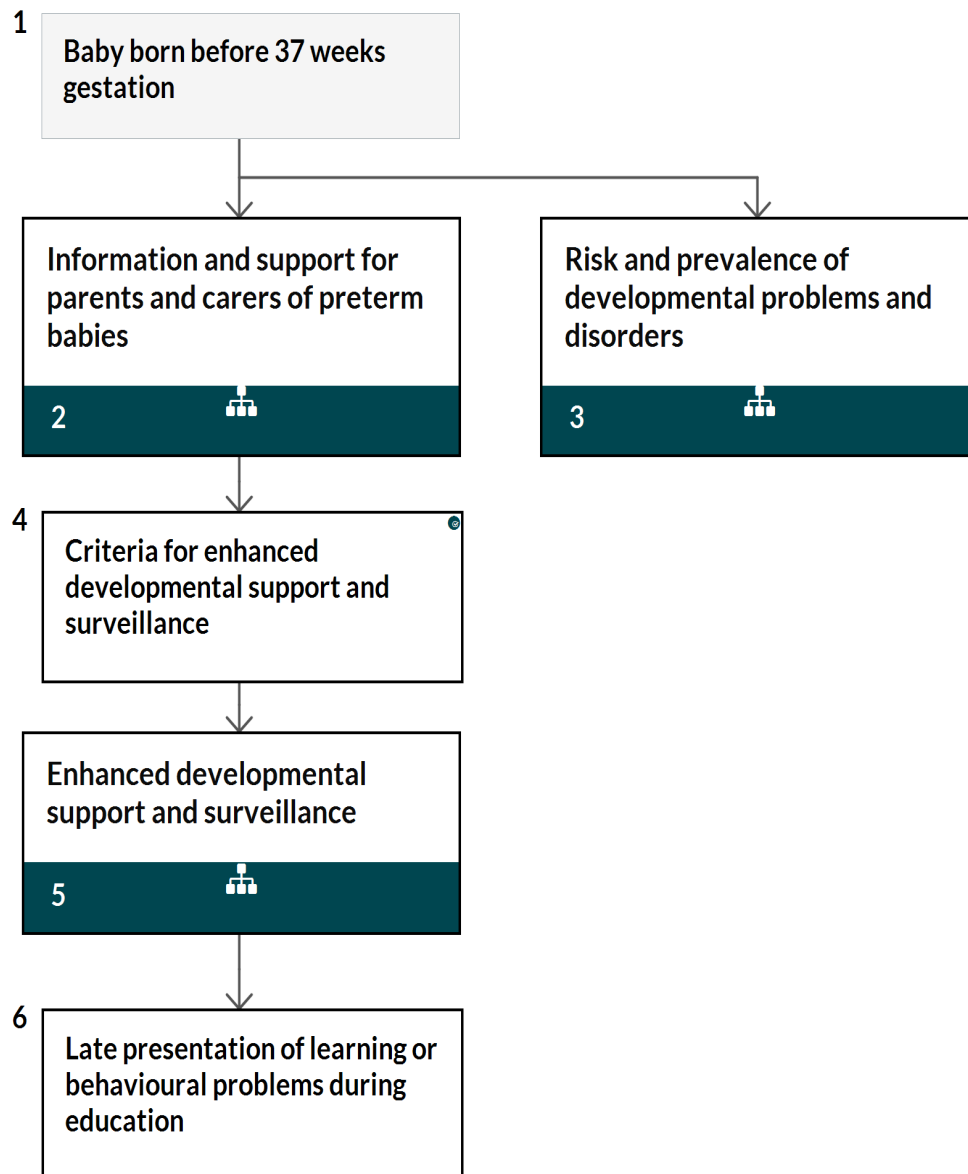
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/developmental-follow-up-of-children-and-young-people-born-preterm>

NICE Pathway last updated: 02 December 2020

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



1 Baby born before 37 weeks gestation

No additional information

2 Information and support for parents and carers of preterm babies

[See Developmental follow-up of children and young people born preterm / Information and support for parents and carers of preterm babies](#)

3 Risk and prevalence of developmental problems and disorders

[See Developmental follow-up of children and young people born preterm / Risk and prevalence of developmental problems and disorders in children and young people born preterm](#)

4 Criteria for enhanced developmental support and surveillance

Support and surveillance up to 2 years (corrected age)

Provide enhanced developmental support and surveillance by a multidisciplinary team (see [delivering enhanced developmental support and surveillance](#)) up to 2 years (corrected age) for children born preterm who:

- have a developmental problem or disorder **or**
- are at increased risk of developmental problems or disorders, based on the following criteria:
 - born before 30⁺⁰ weeks' gestation **or**
 - born between 30⁺⁰ and 36⁺⁶ weeks' gestation and has or had 1 or more of the following risk factors:
 - ◇ a brain lesion on neuroimaging likely to be associated with developmental problems or disorders (for example, grade 3 or 4 intraventricular haemorrhage or cystic periventricular leukomalacia)
 - ◇ grade 2 or 3 hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy in the neonatal period
 - ◇ neonatal bacterial meningitis
 - ◇ herpes simplex encephalitis in the neonatal period.

Consider enhanced developmental support and surveillance by a multidisciplinary team up to 2

years (corrected age) for children born preterm who do not meet the criteria above but are suspected of being at increased risk of developmental problems or disorders, taking into account the presence and severity of risk factors (see [risk and prevalence of developmental problems and disorders](#)).

Developmental assessment at 4 years (uncorrected age) for all children born before 28 weeks

Provide a face-to-face developmental assessment at 4 years (uncorrected age) for all children born before 28⁺⁰ weeks' gestation (see [further developmental assessment at 4 years for children born before 28 weeks](#)).

Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

4. Developmental assessment at 4 years

5 Enhanced developmental support and surveillance

See [Developmental follow-up of children and young people born preterm / Enhanced developmental support and surveillance for children and young people born preterm](#)

6 Late presentation of learning or behavioural problems during education

Primary and secondary education professionals should be aware that:

- preterm birth may be a factor in learning or behavioural problems
- these problems can emerge at any point during a child or young person's education
- prompt referral to educational support services may be needed.

Glossary

developmental problems or disorders

a group of problems that become apparent during child development and often occur together. They are characterised by impairments of personal, social, academic or occupational functioning, ranging from very specific limitations to global impairments of social skills or cognition, as measured by parent or teacher reports and surveillance tools. The term 'disorder' applies if the condition is severe, persistent and pervasive enough to meet the criteria for a disorder in the International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems (ICD) or the Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM)

Sources

[Developmental follow-up of children and young people born preterm](#) (2017) NICE guideline NG72

Your responsibility

Guidelines

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.

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.

Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so 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.

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.

Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in

their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance 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.