

Eczema overview

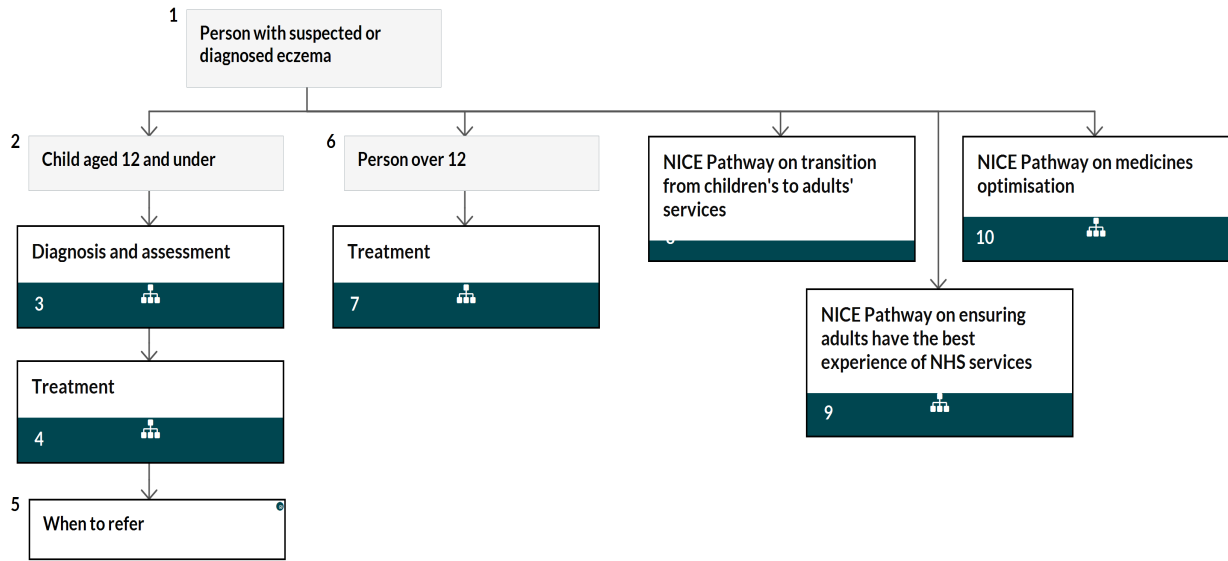
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

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/eczema>

NICE Pathway last updated: 27 October 2020

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



1 Person with suspected or diagnosed eczema

No additional information

2 Child aged 12 and under

No additional information

3 Diagnosis and assessment

See Eczema / Diagnosing and assessing atopic eczema in children aged 12 and under

4 Treatment

See Eczema / Treating atopic eczema in children aged 12 and under

5 When to refer

Referral for specialist dermatological advice

For information on referral for same-day dermatological and ophthalmological advice in children with eczema herpeticum, see [herpes infection](#).

Refer urgently (within 2 weeks) for specialist dermatological advice if:

- the atopic eczema is severe and has not responded to optimum topical therapy after 1 week
- treatment of bacterially infected atopic eczema has failed.

Refer for specialist dermatological advice if:

- the diagnosis is, or has become, uncertain
- management has not controlled the atopic eczema satisfactorily based on a subjective assessment by the child or parent/carer (for example, the child is having 1 to 2 weeks of flares per month or is reacting adversely to many emollients)
- atopic eczema on the face has not responded to appropriate treatment
- the child or parent/carer might benefit from specialist advice on treatment application (for

- example, bandaging techniques)
- you suspect contact allergic dermatitis (for example, persistent atopic eczema or atopic eczema of the face, eyelids or hands)
- the atopic eczema is causing significant social or psychological problems for the child or parent/carer (for example, sleep disturbance, poor school attendance)
- the atopic eczema is associated with severe and recurrent infections, especially deep abscesses or pneumonia.

Referral for psychological and other specialist advice

Refer for psychological advice children whose atopic eczema has responded to optimum management but for whom the impact on quality of life and psychosocial wellbeing has not improved.

Refer children with moderate or severe atopic eczema and suspected food allergy for specialist investigation and management of the atopic eczema and allergy. (See also [the NICE Pathway on food allergy in under 19s.](#))

Refer children with atopic eczema who fail to grow at the expected growth trajectory, as reflected by the [UK growth charts](#), for specialist advice relating to growth.

Quality standards

The following quality statements are relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

5. Referral for specialist dermatological advice
6. Specialist allergy investigation

6 Person over 12

No additional information

7 Treatment

[See Eczema / Treating eczema in people over 12](#)

8 NICE Pathway on transition from children's to adults' services

[See Transition from children's to adults' services](#)

9 NICE Pathway on ensuring adults have the best experience of NHS services

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

10 NICE Pathway on medicines optimisation

[See Medicines optimisation](#)

Sources

Atopic eczema in under 12s: diagnosis and management (2007) NICE guideline CG57

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.