

## Endometriosis overview

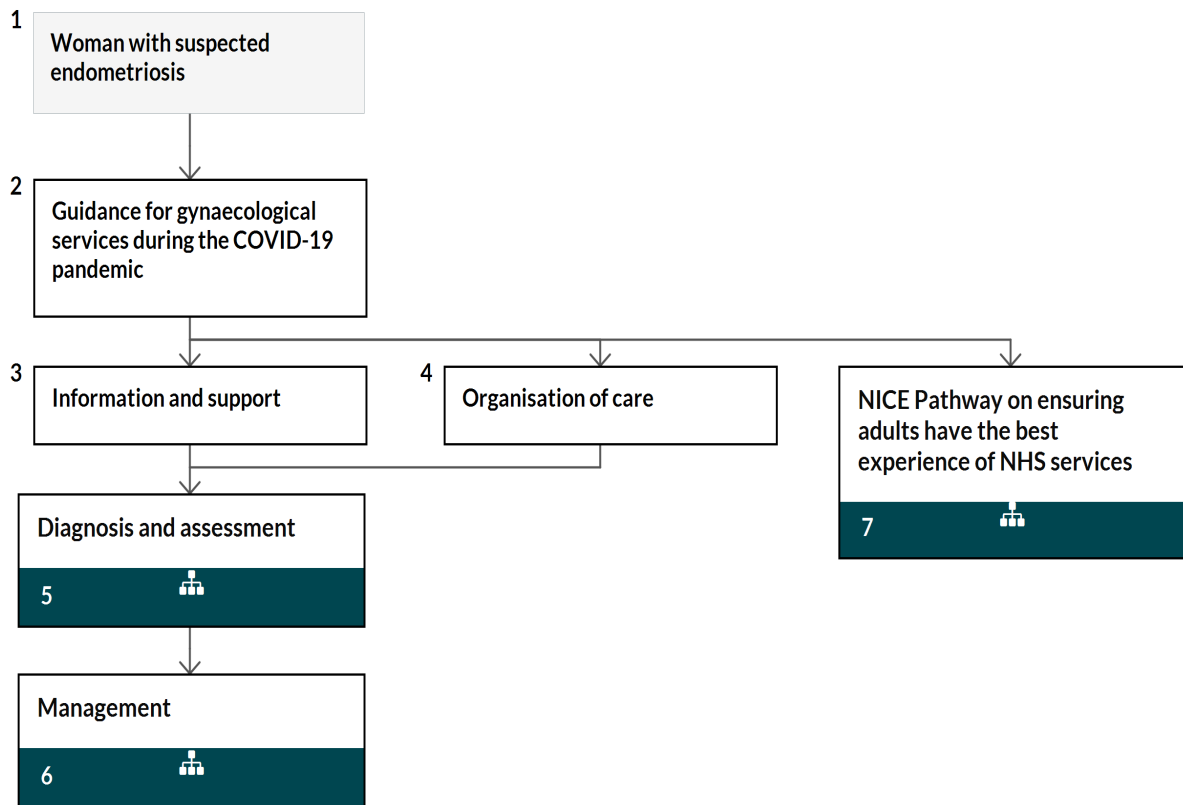
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

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/endometriosis>

NICE Pathway last updated: 02 November 2020

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



## 1 Woman with suspected endometriosis

No additional information

## 2 Guidance for gynaecological services during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has produced [guidance for gynaecological services during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

## 3 Information and support

Be aware that endometriosis can be a long-term condition, and can have a significant physical, sexual, psychological and social impact. Women may have complex needs and require long-term support.

Assess the individual information and support needs of women with suspected or confirmed endometriosis, taking into account their circumstances, symptoms, priorities, desire for fertility, aspects of daily living, work and study, cultural background, and their physical, psychosexual and emotional needs.

Provide information and support for women with suspected or confirmed endometriosis, which should include:

- what endometriosis is
- endometriosis symptoms and signs
- how endometriosis is diagnosed
- treatment options
- local support groups, online forums and national charities, and how to access them.

If women agree, involve their partner (and/or other family members or people important to them) and include them in discussions. For more guidance on providing information to people and involving family members and carers, see NICE's recommendations on [patient experience](#).

NICE has written information for the public on [endometriosis](#).

## 4 Organisation of care

Set up a managed clinical network for women with suspected or confirmed endometriosis, consisting of community services (including GPs, practice nurses, school nurses and sexual health services), gynaecology services and specialist endometriosis services (endometriosis centres).

Community, gynaecology and specialist endometriosis services (endometriosis centres) should:

- provide coordinated care for women with suspected or confirmed endometriosis
- have processes in place for prompt diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis, because delays can affect quality of life and result in disease progression.

### Women with suspected or confirmed endometriosis

Gynaecology services for women with suspected or confirmed endometriosis should have access to:

- a gynaecologist with expertise in diagnosing and managing endometriosis, including training and skills in laparoscopic surgery
- a gynaecology specialist nurse with expertise in endometriosis
- a multidisciplinary pain management service
- a healthcare professional with an interest in gynaecological imaging
- fertility services.

### Specialist endometriosis services

Specialist endometriosis services (endometriosis centres) should have access to:

- gynaecologists with expertise in diagnosing and managing endometriosis, including advanced laparoscopic surgical skills
- a colorectal surgeon with an interest in endometriosis
- a urologist with an interest in endometriosis
- an endometriosis specialist nurse
- a multidisciplinary pain management service with expertise in pelvic pain
- a healthcare professional with specialist expertise in gynaecological imaging of endometriosis
- advanced diagnostic facilities (for example, radiology and histopathology)
- fertility services.

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**5** **Diagnosis and assessment**

[See Endometriosis / Diagnosing and assessing endometriosis](#)

**6** **Management**

[See Endometriosis / Managing endometriosis](#)

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

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

## Glossary

### **managed clinical network**

(linked groups of healthcare professionals from primary, secondary and tertiary care providing a coordinated patient pathway; responsibility for setting up these networks will depend on existing service provision and location)

## Sources

[Endometriosis: diagnosis and management](#) (2017) NICE guideline NG73

## 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.