

## Perioperative care overview

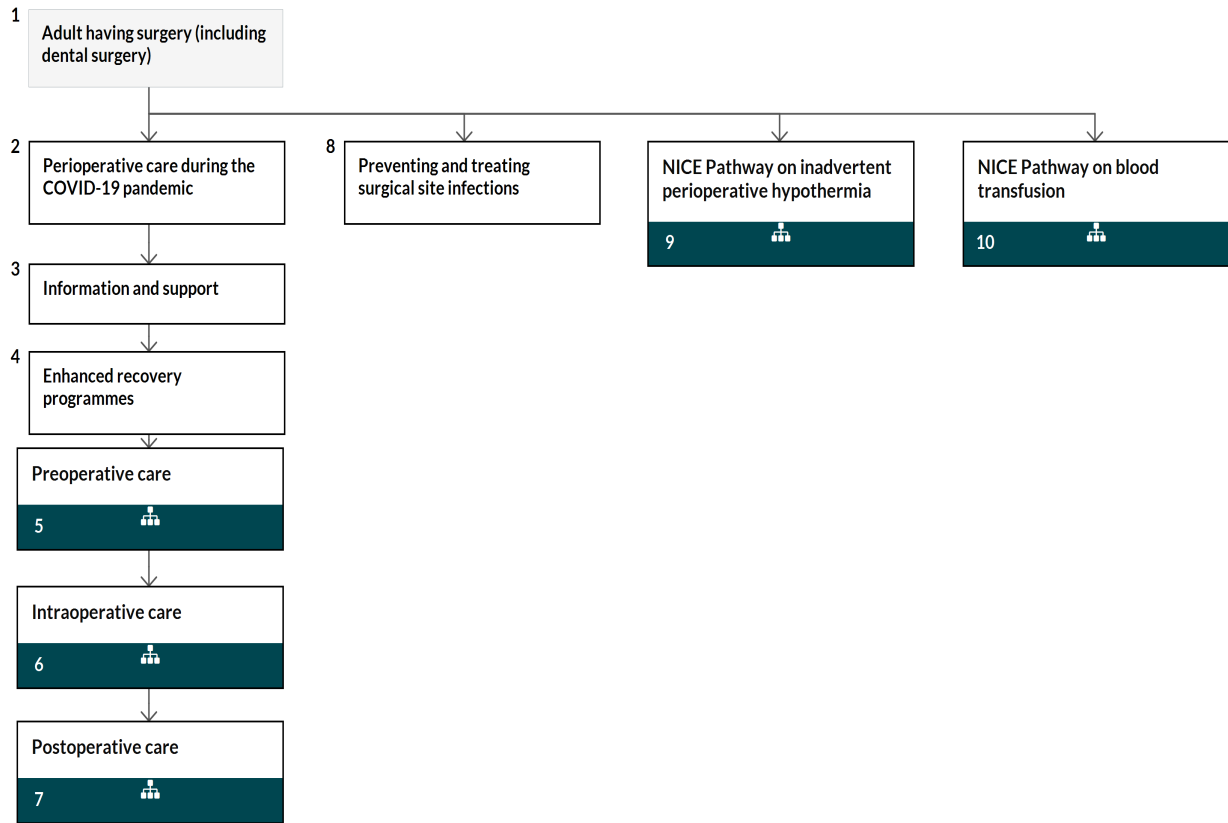
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

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/perioperative-care>

NICE Pathway last updated: December 2020

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



## 1 Adult having surgery (including dental surgery)

No additional information

## 2 Perioperative care during the COVID-19 pandemic

These recommendations were developed before the COVID-19 pandemic. See [NICE's COVID-19 rapid guideline on arranging planned care in hospitals and diagnostic services](#) for guidance on minimising the risk from COVID-19.

## 3 Information and support

When booking surgery, give people a point of contact within the perioperative care team who can be approached for information and support before and after their surgery

See the NICE guideline to find out [why we made this recommendation and how it might affect practice](#).

Follow the recommendations in [the NICE Pathway on patient experience in adult NHS services](#) on:

- [involvement of family members and carers](#)
- [communication](#)
- [information](#)
- [shared decision making](#).

For people with a learning disability, follow the recommendations on communication and making information accessible in [information and support in the NICE Pathway on care and support of people growing older with learning disabilities](#).

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

## 4 Enhanced recovery programmes

Offer an enhanced recovery programme to people having elective major or complex surgery.

Use an enhanced recovery programme that includes preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative components.

### Rationale and impact

See the NICE guideline to find out [why we made these recommendations and how they might affect practice](#).

#### 5 Preoperative care

[See Perioperative care / Preoperative care](#)

#### 6 Intraoperative care

[See Perioperative care / Intraoperative care](#)

#### 7 Postoperative care

[See Perioperative care / Postoperative care](#)

#### 8 Preventing and treating surgical site infections

See [the NICE Pathway on preventing and treating surgical site infections](#).

#### 9 NICE Pathway on inadvertent perioperative hypothermia

[See Inadvertent perioperative hypothermia](#)

#### 10 NICE Pathway on blood transfusion

[See blood transfusion](#)

## Glossary

### major or complex surgery

(examples include total abdominal hysterectomy, endoscopic resection of prostate, lumbar discectomy, thyroidectomy, total joint replacement, lung operations, colonic resection and radical neck dissection)

## Sources

[Perioperative care in adults](#) (2020) NICE guideline NG180

## 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.