

# Urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women overview

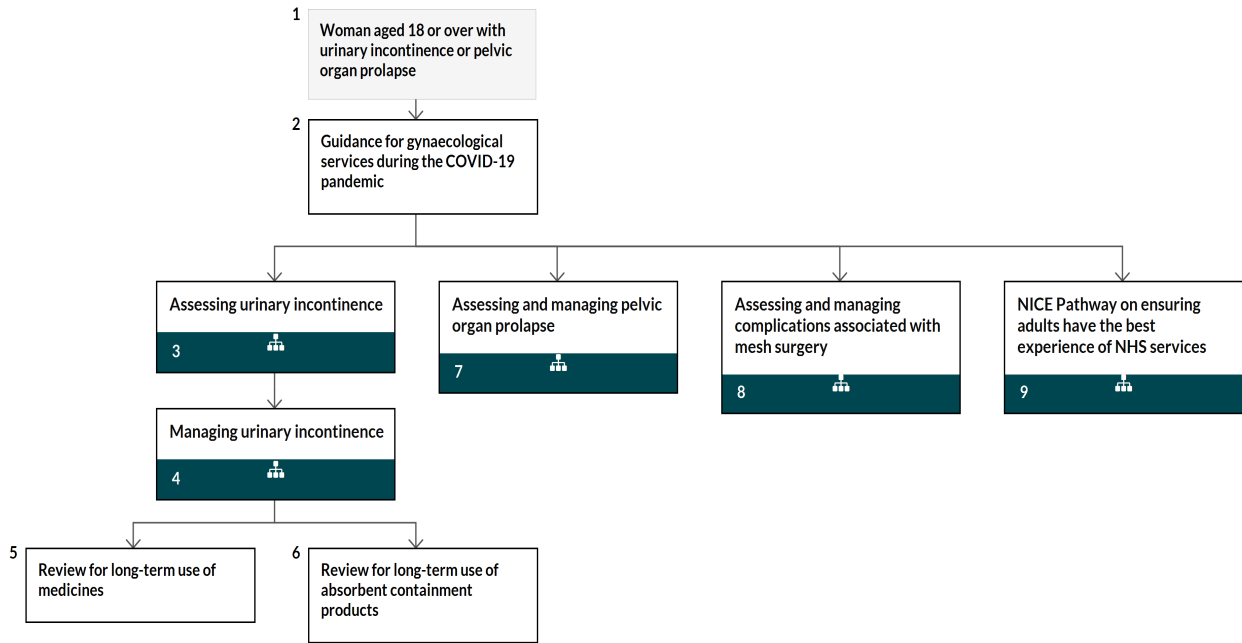
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

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/urinary-incontinence-and-pelvic-organ-prolapse-in-women>

NICE Pathway last updated: 03 September 2020

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



## 1 Woman aged 18 or over with urinary incontinence or pelvic organ prolapse

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 Assessing urinary incontinence

See [Urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women / Assessing urinary incontinence in women](#)

## 4 Managing urinary incontinence

See [Urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women / Managing urinary incontinence in women](#)

## 5 Review for long-term use of medicines

Offer a review in primary care to women who remain on long-term medicine for OAB or UI every 12 months, or every 6 months if they are aged over 75.

## 6 Review for long-term use of absorbent containment products

Offer a review at least once a year to women who are using absorbent containment products for long-term management of UI. The review should cover:

- routine assessment of continence
- assessment of skin integrity
- changes to symptoms, comorbidities, lifestyle, mobility, medication, BMI, and social and environmental factors
- the suitability of alternative treatment options

- the efficacy of the absorbent containment product the woman is currently using and the quantities used.

Reviews for women who are using absorbent containment products for long-term management of UI should be carried out by either:

- a registered healthcare professional who is trained in assessing continence and making referrals to specialist services **or**
- a non-registered healthcare worker, under the supervision of a registered healthcare professional who is trained in assessing continence and making referrals to specialist services.

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

See also [when to refer to specialist services](#).

## **7 Assessing and managing pelvic organ prolapse**

[See Urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women / Assessing and managing pelvic organ prolapse](#)

## **8 Assessing and managing complications associated with mesh surgery**

[See Urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women / Assessing and managing complications associated with mesh surgery](#)

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

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

## Glossary

### OAB

overactive bladder

### UI

urinary incontinence

## Sources

[Urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women: management \(2019\) NICE guideline NG123](#)

## 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](#)

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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.