

CASE STUDY:

Examining the Implementation of NICE Guidance: Cross-Sectional Survey of the Use of NICE Interventional Procedures Guidance by NHS Trusts



NHS hospitals receive large amounts of evidence-based recommendations for care delivery from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), but little is known about how organisations implement this guidance and best practice for doing so. As part of YHEC's work as an External Assessment Centre, NICE commissioned YHEC to examine the dissemination, decision-making, and monitoring processes for interventional procedures (IP) guidance, and to investigate barriers and enablers to implementation in NHS Trusts.

The results showed that NHS acute hospitals typically had processes in place to implement NICE guidance (fig. 1). However, barriers to implementation were identified including organisational process barriers, clinical engagement and poor targeting with a large number of guidance issued. Enablers to, and good practice for, implementation of guidance were also found, notably the value of shared learning experiences between NHS hospitals.

Fig. 1 NHS implementation pathway following release of NICE guidance



A cross-sectional survey questionnaire was developed and distributed to individuals responsible for managing NICE guidance processes at all 181 acute NHS hospitals. YHEC also undertook a review of hospital policies for implementing NICE guidance using information in the public domain.

YHEC highlighted implications for NICE to facilitate guidance implementation, including improvements to guidance layout and signposting on the website, and making better use of their shared learning platform to encourage open knowledge transfer between organisations.

Read more about this research in [Implementation Science](#).



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