



Health and Social Care Act 2012

2012 CHAPTER 7

PART 8

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Functions: quality standards

234 Quality standards

- (1) The relevant commissioner may direct NICE to prepare statements of standards in relation to the provision of—
 - (a) NHS services,
 - (b) public health services, or
 - (c) social care in England.
- (2) In this Part such a statement is referred to as a “quality standard”.
- (3) In preparing a quality standard NICE must consult the public and, for that purpose, may publish drafts of the standard.
- (4) NICE must keep a quality standard under review and may revise it as it considers appropriate.
- (5) A quality standard (and any revised standard)—
 - (a) has no effect unless it is endorsed by the relevant commissioner, and
 - (b) must not be published by NICE unless the relevant commissioner so requires.
- (6) The relevant commissioner may require NICE—
 - (a) to publish the standard (or revised standard) or to disseminate it to persons specified by the relevant commissioner, and
 - (b) to do so in the manner specified by the relevant commissioner.
- (7) NICE must—
 - (a) establish a procedure for the preparation of quality standards, and

Changes to legislation: Health and Social Care Act 2012, Section 234 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (b) consult such persons as it considers appropriate in establishing that procedure.
- (8) Subsection (9) applies in a case where the Secretary of State and [^{F1}NHS England] each has power under this section to give NICE a direction to prepare a quality standard in relation to the same matter or connected matters.
- (9) In such a case—
- (a) the Secretary of State and [^{F1}NHS England] may issue a joint direction under subsection (1), and
 - (b) if they do so, NICE must prepare a joint quality standard in respect of the matter or matters concerned.
- (10) In this section “the relevant commissioner”—
- (a) in relation to a quality standard in relation to the provision of NHS services, means [^{F1}NHS England], and
 - (b) in relation to a quality standard in relation to the provision of public health services or of social care in England, means the Secretary of State,
- and a reference to the relevant commissioner in relation to a joint quality standard is a reference to both the Secretary of State and [^{F1}NHS England].
- (11) In this Part—
- [^{F2}“NHS services” means services the provision of which is arranged by NHS England or an integrated care board (including services the provision of which is arranged by it in the exercise of functions of another person by virtue of any provision of the National Health Service Act 2006);]
- “public health services” means services provided pursuant to the functions of—
- (a) the Secretary of State under section 2A or 2B of, or paragraph 7C, 8 or 12 of Schedule 1 to, that Act, or
 - (b) a local authority under section 2B or 111 of, or paragraphs 1 to 7B or 13 of Schedule 1 to, that Act.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 234 substituted (1.7.2022) by [Health and Care Act 2022 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 186(6), Sch. 1 para. 1(1)(2); [S.I. 2022/734](#), reg. 2(a), Sch. (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
- F2** Words in s. 234(11) substituted (1.7.2022) by [Health and Care Act 2022 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 186(6), **Sch. 9 para. 20**; [S.I. 2022/734](#), reg. 2(a), Sch. (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
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Commencement Information

- I1** S. 234 partly in force; s. 234 in force for specified purposes at Royal Assent, see s. 306(1)(d)
- I2** S. 234 in force at 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2013/160](#), **art. 2(2)** (with arts. 7-9)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/1831 art. 10 by [S.I. 2012/2657 art. 15](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Pt. 9 Ch. 1B inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 96](#)
- s. 102(4)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 1 para. 13(3) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 28](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- s. 105(3A)(3B) inserted by [2013 c. 24 Sch. 14 para. 21](#)
- s. 106(3A)(3B) inserted by [2013 c. 24 Sch. 14 para. 22](#)
- s. 250(2)-(2B) substituted for s. 250(2) by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 250(6)-(6D) substituted for s. 250(6) by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 251251ZA substituted for s. 251 by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(3\)](#)
- s. 251C(6A) inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 259(1)(aa)(b) substituted for s. 259(1)(b) by [2022 c. 31 s. 98\(b\)](#)
- s. 259(1)(aa) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/98 Sch. para. 17\(11\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (This amendment comes in force at the same time as 2022 c. 31, s. 98 comes into force)
- s. 259(10A)(10B) inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 98\(h\)](#)
- s. 304(5)(ja) inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(5\)](#)