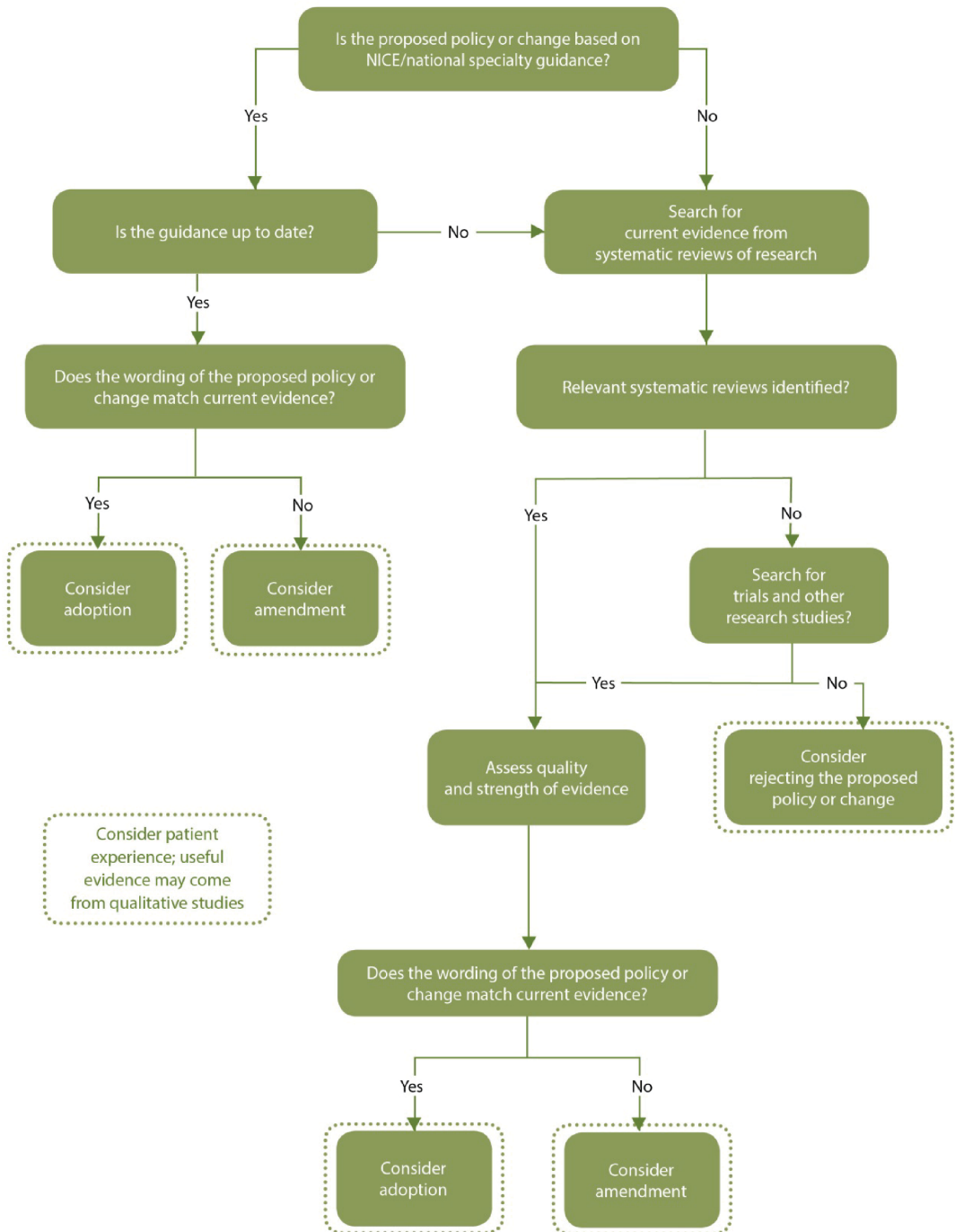


# Using evidence to support commissioning decisions



## Notes

Is the proposed policy based on NICE/national specialty guidance?

Websites to search include:

- [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) (guidelines and quality standards for England and Wales)
- [Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network](#) (clinical guidelines for Scotland)
- Royal Colleges relevant to the topic (e.g. [Royal College of General Practitioners](#))
- [NHS Evidence](#) - under "Types of evidence" use the filter "Guidance" (evidence from a range of accredited sources)

Is the guidance up to date?

Check when the guidance was last updated (the search for evidence may have been performed a significant amount of time before the guidance was published):

- Is the date of the last update or search appropriate to the topic? Is there a rapid or stable rate of knowledge change on the topic?
- Is there likely to have been new research published since release of the guidance that could impact on the recommendations?

Search for current evidence from systematic reviews of research literature

A systematic review is a consistent, transparent and reproducible approach to identifying, evaluating and summarising all relevant evidence on a topic

Sources to search for systematic reviews include:

- [Health Technology Assessment database](#) (completed and ongoing health technology assessments)
- [Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews](#) (health interventions)
- [NHS Evidence](#) - under "Type of evidence" use filter "Systematic review" (health and social care interventions)
- [Health Systems Evidence](#) (health system interventions)
- [Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews](#) (education, crime and justice, and social care)
- [PubMed Health](#) (health interventions)
- [Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects\\*](#) (health and social care interventions)
- [NHS Economic Evaluation Database\\*](#) (health interventions)

\*no new records added after December 2014

Search for trials and other research studies

A full systematic search for evidence is unlikely to be feasible; consider criteria for restricting your search by study design, sample size, or date of publication as appropriate to the topic

Sources to search include:

- [Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials](#) (bibliographic database of randomised controlled trials)
- [NIHR Journals Library](#) (archive of research funded by the National Institute for Health Research)
- [NHS Evidence](#) (evidence from a range of accredited sources)

Assess quality and strength of evidence

Check when systematic reviews were last updated (the search for evidence may have been performed a significant amount of time before the review was published)

Just because it has been published do not accept the research at face value

The [Critical Appraisal Skills Programme](#) (CASP) has free tools to help assess the quality of systematic reviews and other types of research evidence such as randomised controlled trials

Consider adoption/Consider amendment/Consider rejecting proposed policy

Consider patient experience; useful evidence may come from qualitative studies. [PubMed](#) (database of a broad range of biomedical literature) may be a useful source to search.

Where there is evidence of no or marginal benefit use appropriate judgement when considering adopting, amending or rejecting the proposed policy