



**National Institute for
Health Research**

BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 6.2a (established)

NIHR RESEARCH FOR PATIENT BENEFIT (RFPB) PROGRAMME

*Best Research for Best Health*¹ set out a 5-year Research and Development Strategy for the NHS in England. This Implementation Plan provides more details on a key component of that strategy: NIHR RESEARCH FOR PATIENT BENEFIT (RfPB) PROGRAMME.

The NIHR RfPB programme has been fully implemented.

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Aim

- The National Institute for Health Research, Research for Patient Benefit (NIHR RfPB) programme supports projects in the NHS, including the health services research and public health arenas, based on quantitative or qualitative methods, which aim to:
 - study the provision and use of NHS services
 - evaluate the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions
 - examine the resource utilisation of alternative means for healthcare delivery
 - formally scrutinise innovations and developments

Purpose

- This national response-mode funding programme funds high quality, investigator-led research of relevance to the NHS.
- The NIHR RfPB programme:
 - supports research related to the day-to-day practice in areas identified by health service staff themselves and developed by them with appropriate high quality academic input;
 - selects proposals for funding on the basis of both the quality of the proposed research and its relevance to the broader NHS;
 - These grants replace, in part, programmes of research currently supported by the Priorities and Needs (PNF) component of NHS R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers.

¹ Best Research for Best Health: A New National Health Research Strategy. The NHS contribution to health research in England. Department of Health 2006.

Funding

- Funding for this programme has built up over the three years of the NHS R&D transition period; up to £25m is available in 2009/10.
- Individual grants provide funds for research projects rather than for setting up or maintaining research units, or new service developments.
- Project grants can be up to 36 months' duration with a total maximum cost of £250k including overheads (excluding any Service Support and Excess Treatment Costs).
- Smaller grants may be sought to conduct pilot studies, feasibility studies and systematic reviews where the likely outcome is aligned clearly with the remit of the programme, see FAQs at: www.nihr-ccf.org.uk/site/programmes/rfpb/faq/default.cfm

Process

- The NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) administers the programme.
- There are ten Regional Funding Committees, one covering each Strategic Health Authority area.
- Funding is divided among the ten Regional Committees on a *per capita* of population basis but DH may allocate money flexibly in the light of experience and according to the numbers and quality of applications received.

Selection Criteria

- Applications are judged on the quality of the research proposed and on the significance and potential benefit of that research to the NHS and to patients.
- Applications with a strong component of service user/patient and public involvement are particularly welcome.
- Detailed guidance for applicants, including specific selection criteria, can be downloaded from the NIHR CCF website.

Eligibility

- Applications must come from an NHS organisation.
- All NHS organisations in England, including those in primary care, are eligible to apply.
- Applications from NHS organisations with academic partners as co-applicants are particularly welcome, as well as service user involvement.
- In all cases, funding is awarded to an NHS organisation.

Further information

Further information about the NIHR RfPB programme is available at www.nihr-ccf.org.uk/site/programmes/rfpb/default.cfm

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