

## Zone 2

# Best evidence for best health

**Research evidence points to the solutions to today's health priorities. It enables the NHS to increase productivity, decrease costs, increase quality and improve health outcomes. It is a powerful driver of economic growth through the life science industries. It provides health and economic benefits now and in the future.**

The NIHR has transformed research in the NHS increasing the volume of applied health and care research, year on year, for the benefit of patients and the public.

### What evidence do we need?

The NIHR is a highly-integrated system which delivers the evidence to meet the health and care needs of patients and the public, enabling people to live healthy, long and independent lives. It meets the needs of the NHS, and the public health and care systems. For example, research funded by the NIHR could save an **estimated 140,000 lives world-wide** each year from post-traumatic bleeding.

We fund academics, clinicians and practitioners to collaborate with each other, with hospitals, industry and with charities to generate the research evidence that impacts on:

- patients and the public by improving health and care outcomes
- national policy in health and social care
- the health and care system, improving quality, practice and value
- industrial competitiveness and economic growth.

### How do we generate evidence?

We work as an integrated, evidence-based system, providing the people, training, funding, facilities and prioritisation for research within the NHS, and wider health and care systems.

Our evidence comes from the research and people we fund and support to:

- evaluate the **effectiveness and impact** of new treatments, technologies and diagnostics
- find **new ways** of preventing, identifying and treating ill health
- help make **efficient use of resources**, reduce spend, increase productivity and safety.

The NIHR has established a number of research programmes, such as our **world-leading Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme**, and cutting edge **Facilities** and **Centres** in the NHS. These are at the forefront of international medical research in developing and evaluating treatments, technologies and diagnostics as they progress down the innovation pathway. We involve patients and the public so that research is relevant, better designed, has clear outcomes and faster uptake.

We take a long term view because clinical research needs sustained commitment. The NIHR nurtures skilled staff, and supports patients as key partners. We promote growing fields such as **precision medicine** and **health informatics**.



## Zone 2 Best evidence for best health

### Who uses our evidence?

We share our knowledge widely with those who need it. We are the world's first funder to publish comprehensive accounts of our commissioned research in our own free and publicly available **NIHR Journals Library**. We summarise and interpret evidence for clinical professionals, commissioning groups, NHS managers, service providers, patients, service users, the wider public and policy makers. Our **Systematic and Themed Reviews** and **Evidence Summaries** are helping to improve, plan, prioritise and deliver health and care.

An example is our recent end of life Themed Review: **Better Endings – right care, right place, right time**: <http://bit.ly/1PL2mhp>

### Progress 2006/16

The NIHR was established in 2006 so that decisions about health and social care could be informed by the best possible evidence through research. In the past ten years we have increased the volume and quality of reliable and relevant evidence and created a culture of innovation leading to faster access to evidence-based care.

### Evidence for cost-savings

- The NIHR invests in research projects and systematic reviews that identify which treatments offer the most cost-effective solutions for the NHS and other care providers to adopt.
- NIHR-funded evidence helps NHS leaders and decision makers identify the balance between costs and benefits in introducing a new technology, treatment or service.

### Evidence for new health technologies and service configurations

- We support decision-making through evaluating new health technologies, our **evidence databases** and our **systematic reviews** infrastructure.
- **NICE guidance** contains recommendations based on NIHR evidence and the **NHS is legally obliged** to fund and resource treatments that it recommends.
- We contribute to evidence-informed policy and practice in health and social care, **independently assessing** the existing evidence base on the benefits, harms and costs of specific health technologies.

Potential savings of  
**£3bn**

per year for the NHS if the results of ten high impact studies from the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme were implemented

More than **250**  
**NICE Guidelines**  
have used  
evidence from  
NIHR-supported  
research

In 2014/15 more people than  
ever before were recruited  
to dementia studies

A record-breaking

**21,499**

people took part in dementia research  
supported by the NIHR, a huge increase of

**58%**

from the previous year

**42**  
critically appraised economic  
evaluations and  
**1,410**  
bibliographic records to  
NHS Economic Evaluation  
Database (EED)

**14,843**  
published health  
technology  
assessments on the  
Health Technology  
Assessment (HTA)  
database

**204**  
quality assessed and critically  
appraised systematic reviews and  
**6,827**  
bibliographic records to  
Database of Abstracts of Reviews of  
Effects (DARE)