

Research proposed for funding by the ICA Programme must lie within the remit of the NIHR and fulfil at least one of the Health Education England (HEE) priorities:

The NIHR Remit

1. NIHR supports training in clinical and applied health research, including social care research.
2. The proposal must have clear potential for benefitting patients and the public within 5 years of its completion (but recognising the training element of the research).
3. The research can involve: patients; samples or data from patients; people who are not patients; populations; health technology assessment; or health services research.
4. NIHR does not itself fund basic research or work involving animals or their tissue.
5. If the work involves biomarkers:
 - research that tests whether application of new knowledge can improve treatment or patient outcomes, and has obvious potential benefit within 5 years, is within remit. This might include application of known biomarkers, or other prognostic factors, to refine and test novel therapeutic strategies.
 - research that aims only to elucidate mechanisms underpinning disease, or identify risk factors for disease or prognosis (including search for biomarkers) is out of remit.
6. The NIHR is also prepared to support high quality research into 'medical education' (defined broadly as education for healthcare providers). Whilst this area of research need not fulfil the criterion of having 'potential for benefitting patients and the public within 5 years of its completion', it is expected that the research will have the potential to have practical application.

HEE Priorities

- Improving out of hospital care;
- Creating the safest, highest quality health and care services *;
- Improving efficiency and productivity of the health and care system;
- Preventing ill health and supporting people to live healthier lives;
- Enabling people and communities to make decisions about their own health and care;
- Improving services through the use of digital technology, information and transparency;
- Delivering the right workforce with the right skills, values and competencies;
- Driving improvements in education & training that will have a real impact on the quality of care delivered to patients and service users.

* This includes the development and evaluation of medical treatments, interventions or processes.