Tips for applying

The question needs to be clearly defined in simple terms and in remit for the relevant programme. It should ideally be in one sentence.

Seek advice from the relevant programme

Involving a Clinical Trials Unit, Research Design Service, and Clinical Research Network as appropriate. It is very important to read the guidance notes for the opportunity you are applying for.

Will the research still be relevant

By the time it is completed? Is it already being answered by ongoing research elsewhere?

Is this the right study design for the question?

Consider novel and efficient study designs. Sample size should be justified and outcome measures necessary and appropriate. Are there enough patients and can they be recruited? Is there existing infrastructure in place to support the research?

Patients and the public should be at the heart of the research at every stage, from design to dissemination. The INVOLVE website has lots of useful resources.

Does the team have the appropriate expertise including project management, patient and public involvement, statistics, academics, health economics and clinical or subject (where applicable)? Are research staff of the appropriate level/grade for their role?

Who is the end user of the research and how will you reach them?

Costs and staff time commitments should be realistic and clearly justified.

How will this research change practice?

We must be able to easily understand the potential benefit to the target population, patient/public group and/or NHS.

Is your application well presented concise and clear? Use visible headings, white space and flow diagrams. Make sure it tells the story for non-specialist readers and leave time to proofread it thoroughly.