GENERAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Research funded by an NIHR research programme has been assessed as addressing an important and enduring research gap identified by evidence users as well as being scientifically sound.

All NIHR advisory committees and panels use the following criteria when assessing the merits of individual applications. However applicants should note there may be additional criteria tailored to the remits of the individual NIHR research programmes. It is essential that applicants consider these as well as other information and guidance provided at individual programme level when submitting a proposal.

Need for the evidence

Proposals will first be assessed regarding:

- The importance or burden of the health or care problem to those who would use the evidence generated by the proposed study
- What the proposed study would add to the existing body of knowledge
- Whether the study is likely to lead to improved health and care and effect practice change
- Whether the study would have a high impact on patients, the public and people working in health and care within the short to medium term.

Value for money

Once the need for the evidence has been established, the costs outlined in the proposal will be considered to assess whether:

- The proposed costs of the research are reasonable and commensurate with the proposed work involved
- The costs to health and care services in supporting the research are reasonable in relation to the likely benefits of the research to decision-makers, patients and the public.

Scientific rigour

Once both sets of the above criteria have been established, applications will then be scrutinised to confirm that:

- The study design would answer the research question proposed
- The proposed study would be feasible and deliverable
- The team has the necessary skill mix and experience and project management of the study is sound