



National Institute for
Health Research

NIHR Themed Call Webinar

The management of chronic pain

Presenters:

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NIHR/MRC Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation
Programme.

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Webinar overview

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- Introduction to Themed Calls
- How to choose the most appropriate programme
- How to develop a strong proposal
- When and how to apply
- Who to contact for more specific questions about your application
- Questions

NIHR Themed Calls

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- an opportunity for all NIHR programmes to focus on a priority area
- welcome applications across programme, and proposals should be submitted to the programme within whose remit the major part of the work lies.
- welcome applications that include geographic populations with high disease burden which have been historically under served by NIHR research activity
- after the call closes, the topic remains an NIHR priority, and participating programmes will continue to be interested in receiving research proposals in areas not otherwise well covered in their portfolios.

NIHR Themed Calls

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- The inclusion of social care outcomes in addition to health outcomes is encouraged. In these cases, applications should demonstrate the inclusion of appropriate expertise in social care research and links to appropriate social care organisations, whether statutory, private or third sector organisations.
- Studies that make use of existing electronic databases and health and/or social care record systems to maximise the efficiency and timeliness of research
- Multi-disciplinary collaborations

NIHR Themed Call: Pain

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- Chronic pain is usually defined as pain lasting for longer than 3 months.
- Many different clinical and non-clinical practitioners may be involved in supporting people with chronic pain.
- A wide range of different interventions may be used in the management of chronic pain, e.g. pharmacological, psychological, physical, surgical and other forms of therapy.
- A series of national pain audits was undertaken in the UK between 2010-2012 highlighting the wide variation in clinical practice, and access to specialist provision

Participating programmes

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- Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME)
- Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
- Invention for Innovation (i4i)
- Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)
- Public Health Research (PHR)
- Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)
- The following NIHR research training programmes:
 - NIHR Research Professorships, NIHR Fellowships and HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic Programme

Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)



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is interested in applications that:

- produce evidence on the quality, accessibility and organisation of health and social care services. Robust mixed methods studies are invited with a focus on organisation and delivery of services, costs, quality and patient experience. Although other topics may be proposed, the following are of particular interest:

Primary care-led services for chronic pain including diagnosis, management and self-management and the impact on outcomes compared to secondary care-led services.

Comparisons with models of service provision for complex chronic pain provided in community settings including in residential care or on line.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA)



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is interested in applications that:

- research the clinical and cost effectiveness of interventions.
- encompass research relevant to social care, and the inclusion of occupational and social care outcomes is encouraged. Where relevant, proposals should demonstrate appropriate expertise in social care research.
- research primary or evidence synthesis and may use any study design, provided it is efficient and clearly justified.
- For primary research multi centre studies that provide statistically robust and generalizable results will be favoured over pilot or feasibility studies.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA)



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- Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to:
 - physical, psychological and behavioural therapies, including patient education
 - effectiveness of complex pain management pathways & interventions
 - Whether earlier referral to more specialist services based in primary or in secondary care can improve outcomes and reduce harms?
 - the effectiveness of drugs used for chronic pain, e.g. opioids and other drugs that may cause dependency.
 - Investigation of strategies for combining drug therapies for optimal efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness

I4i (Invention for Innovation)

is interested in applications that:



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- support research and development of medical devices, active implantable devices and in vitro diagnostic devices.
- Applications fitting the i4i programme remit are encouraged but not limited to the areas of diagnosis, management and self management of chronic pain in primary and secondary care.
- The i4i programme will not support basic research activities such as biomarker discovery.

Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)



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is interested in applications that:

- support programmes of research which involve a number of inter-related and linked components, using a range of methodological approaches, to answer clinically important questions relevant to the prevention and treatment of chronic pain.
- novel methodological approaches to demonstrate patient benefit at an individual or population level are encouraged. Examples include development and testing of interventions (including links with industry); using observational data to demonstrate benefit; public health interventions; use of existing data from previous research, or routinely collected health care data. Research may be carried out in community, primary or secondary care settings.

Public Health Research Programme

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(PHR)

is interested in applications that:

- evaluate non-NHS public health interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health.
- operate at a population level and which focus on the environmental and social determinants that impact on the prevention and mitigation of chronic pain and its impacts.
- interested in scalable interventions, that act across the life-course, to prevent chronic pain and which enable populations to live well with chronic pain.

Public Health Research Programme

(PHR)

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- interested in population interventions aimed at reducing the impact of chronic pain and/or the health inequalities characteristic of it. Where justified proposals may focus on populations that are defined by social determinants, rather than by their pain.
- Health economic evaluations are of interest and interventions may be multi-component and long term follow-up may be necessary to demonstrate effect.

Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)

is interested in applications that:



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- arise from daily practice in NHS and social care services, and must demonstrate a trajectory to patient, service user, and/or carer benefit.
- supports applications which are regionally derived and are concerned with studying the provision and use of NHS and social care services, evaluating the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of new innovations and interventions, and developing and refining new interventions, scales or outcome measures.

Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)



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- The programme also welcomes applications for feasibility studies, and applications exploring the potential for improving health and wellbeing through needs assessments, methods development, evidence synthesis, systematic reviews, and qualitative, mixed methods and exploratory studies.

NIHR Research Training Programmes:



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- All NIHR research training programmes are aimed at developing tomorrow's research leaders and are available at a range of levels depending on the applicant's background and experience.
- The new Fellowships programme, Research Professorships and Integrated Clinical Academic Programme will participate in this call, and further NIHR training awards will be potentially involved in the call at a later date

Efficacy & Mechanism Evaluation Programme (EME)



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is interested in applications that:

- test interventions for the prevention or treatment of chronic pain. Applications should examine the efficacy of interventions, and may explore the mechanisms underlying possible efficacy.
- investigate novel or repurposed interventions and technologies, but studies of incremental or minor improvements to existing technologies or the discovery of new biomarkers are not within the remit of the EME Programme.
- Particular areas of interest include personalised or stratified care, and the use of novel study designs or existing data where their use can help deliver robust findings more quickly or with better value for money.

How to develop a strong application

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- Choose the important question
- Choose the strongest team
- Choose the most appropriate study design
- Embed PPI throughout
- Maximize deliverability
- Plan Dissemination and impact

Is the question important?



- What is the problem being addressed?
- Has the question already been answered?
- Does it matter to patients/public/policy makers/clinicians?
- Why is the research needed now?
- Can it be delivered by the NHS/Social Care?

Choose the strongest team



- Do you have the expertise you need?
 - Ensure the roles are clearly defined and appropriate
 - Consider the level and range of expertise required
 - Ensure that PPI is demonstrated at all stages
 - Where relevant, ensure a strong multidisciplinary approach

Choose the most appropriate study design



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- Is the design optimised to answer the question?
 - Use existing support, e.g. RDS, CTU
 - Choose the most robust research method and describe it clearly and fully.
 - Ensure your choice of primary outcome, and any secondary outcomes are clear.
 - Statistical input: can your sample size/power calculation be replicated?
 - Explain the dose/intervention and any side effects of the intervention.

Embed PPI throughout

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- embedded throughout the application, from topic identification or design stage.
- outcomes that are important to patients/carers
- readable plain English summary
- meaningful patient/carer roles
- appropriate remuneration for time and expenses
- feedback results to participants
- Plans for communicating results to patients and public

Maximize deliverability

- Have you ensured your research is credible?
 - Recruitment: have you made a convincing case that your recruitment plan is realistic?
 - Is your timeline manageable?
 - Does your application provide value for money, and are the costs correctly allocated?

Plan Dissemination and impact

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- Is there a clear pathway to dissemination and impact?
 - What are the next steps involved after the project has completed?
 - How will the research impact current practice?

Sources of Research Support



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- England: <http://www.rds.nihr.ac.uk>
- Scotland:
<http://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/about/infrastructure>
- Northern Ireland: <http://www.research.hscni.net/>
- Wales:
<https://www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/research-design-and-conduct-service-1/>

When to apply



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Programme	Call open	Call close
Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME)	01/10/2018	19/03/2019
Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)	01/10/2018	10/01/2019
Health Technology Assessment (HTA) - Primary Research	01/10/2018	16/01/2019
Health Technology Assessment (HTA) - Evidence Synthesis	01/10/2018	16/01/2019
Invention for Innovation (i4i)	31/10/2018	12/12/2018
Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)	07/02/2019	03/04/2019
Public Health Research (PHR)	01/10/2018	12/03/2019
Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)	28/11/2018	20/03/2019
Fellowships	02/10/2018	Advanced Fellowship 04/12/18; Doctoral 18/12/2018
Research Professorships	19/09/2018	28/11/2018
Integrated Clinical Academic Programme	01/03/2019	31/03/2019

How to apply



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- Details of the call are available at:
- <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/themed-calls/pain.htm>
- In addition to the RDS providing advice, applicants who are unsure which programme to apply to may wish to send a short summary (maximum 1 page) of their research proposal to themedcalls@nihr.ac.uk

Questions:



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- Opportunity for questions from the participants
- The slides from the webinar will be made available at:
- <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/themed-calls/pain.htm>
- If you have any additional queries, please contact themedcalls@nihr.ac.uk