NIHR Themed Call Webinar

NHS
National Institute for Health Research

Improving the outcomes of health and social care for frail people and their carers

Presenters:
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Webinar overview

- Introduction to Themed Calls
- How to chose 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

- An opportunity for all NIHR programmes to focus on a priority area
- Welcome applications across programmes, but proposals should be submitted to the programme within whose remit the major part of the work lies
- The topic remains an NIHR priority after the call closes, and participating programmes will continue to be interested in receiving research proposals in themed call areas
- Welcome applications that include geographic populations with high disease burden which have been historically under served by NIHR research activity

NIHR Themed Calls

- 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: Frailty

- Improving the outcomes of health and social care for frail people and their carers

- A definition of frailty has not been specified for this call

- Applicants need to show that their proposal is based on an appropriate definition of frailty and aligns with the spirit of the call.

- Applications are not limited to frailty in older people

NIHR Themed Call: Frailty

There is a need for:

- Evidence to support and promote healthy ageing

- Evidence for health and social care interventions that may slow or prevent further declines in health, support independence and/or improve wellbeing

- Evidence for interventions that take account of the wider health and social care needs of the individual and their family or other carers

Participating programmes

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

I4i (Invention for Innovation)

I4i is interested in applications that:

- Advance healthcare technologies and interventions for increased patient benefit in areas of existing or emerging clinical need

- Support research and development of medical devices, active implantable devices and in vitro diagnostic devices

- Applications are encouraged but not limited to technologies that prevent, reverse or reduce the loss of functional abilities and independence in frail people

- The i4i programme will not support basic research activities such as biomarker discovery

Efficacy & Mechanism Evaluation Programme (EME)

EME is interested in applications that:

- Test interventions for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of frailty and causative conditions

- Establish the efficacy of interventions to prevent, reverse or reduce the loss of functional abilities and independence in frail people

- Address the underlying condition or functional difficulty, including mechanistic work within the proposed research

- Interventions may include physical, psychological, pharmacological or behavioural elements and may be delivered by clinicians, other professionals or carers

Efficacy & Mechanism Evaluation Programme (EME)

- Studies are preferred that evaluate interventions that are simple to deliver and where outcomes may be assessed at relatively short time points, e.g. months rather than years, although provision for simple longer term follow up may be included

- Suitably designed studies that evaluate a number of interventions are welcome

- Exercise interventions will only be considered where there is clearly a novel scientific basis for the intervention

- Not within the EME scope of this call: assessment of environmental interventions, such as home modifications

Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

- HTA is interested in applications that evaluate the clinical and cost effectiveness of health and social care interventions that prevent or slow the onset or progression of frailty, and reduce the impact of frailty on patients, service users and carers and the wider NHS and care system

- Proposals may be for primary research or for evidence synthesis and may use any study design, provided it is clearly justified

- Interventions need to be ready for definitive NHS evaluation, in terms of efficacy, deliverability and acceptability

Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to:

- Large randomised trials of multi-domain interventions designed to slow the progression of frailty and loss of independence for people with mild or moderate frailty, and promote their wellbeing

- Studies of interventions to help reduce or mitigate the early onset of frailty observed in certain populations and groups

Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)

- HS&DR is interested in studies 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

- Proposals for studies encompassing evaluation of whole pathway approaches (combining both health and social care) and producing evidence for how people with frailty and social care needs can be better supported to use these services are especially welcome

Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)

Proposals may evaluate:

- Frailty-focused services

- The impact of prevention on health and social care outcomes

- Early detection and management of frailty

- Promotion of self-management

- Urgent care admission avoidance

- Supported discharge and reablement

- End of life care

Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)

- PGfAR 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 frailty

- Applications that use novel methodological approaches to demonstrate patient benefit at an individual or population level are encouraged

Public Health Research Programme (PHR)

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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 of frailty

- Evaluate scalable interventions that operate at a population level and/or across the life-course to prevent frailty

- Evaluate population interventions aimed at reducing the impact of frailty and/or the health inequalities characteristic of it

Public Health Research Programme (PHR)

- Where justified proposals may focus on populations that are defined by social determinants, rather than by frailty

- Health economic evaluations are of interest and we recognise that interventions may be multi-component and that long term follow-up may be necessary to demonstrate effect

Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)

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 for Patient Benefit (RfPB)

Eight regional funding panels; interested in applications that

- arise from NHS and social care practice and priorities with demonstrable trajectory to patient, service user, and/or carer benefit.

- concern the provision and use of NHS and social care, testing the feasibility of studies to evaluate the effects and cost effectiveness of new innovations and interventions, as well as definitive trials and evaluations

- explore the potential for improving health and wellbeing through needs assessments, evidence synthesis, systematic reviews, methods development, developing and refining new interventions, scales or outcome measures, qualitative, mixed methods and exploratory studies.

NIHR Research Training Programmes:

- 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

How to develop a strong application

- Why does this research matter (and to whom) ?

- Assemble a strong team

- Ensure a logical flow from aims and objectives to
  - research questions and methods

- Embed PPI throughout

- Plan appropriate dissemination

Why does this research matter (and to whom)?

- What is the problem being addressed?
- How will the research build on what is known?
- Does it matter to patients/public/policy makers/clinicians?
- Can the research be delivered by the NHS/Social Care?

Assemble a strong team

- Do you have the expertise you need?
  - Match each element of the methods to team expertise
  - Make sure roles are clearly defined and appropriately costed
  - Consider the level and range of expertise required
  - PPI is demonstrated at all stages
  - Where relevant, ensure multidisciplinary elements are strong

Ensure a logical flow from objectives to methods

- Describe the methods clearly and fully
- Ensure your choice of primary outcome, and any secondary outcomes are clear, justified and not too burdensome.
- Statistical input: can your sample size/power calculation be replicated?
- Explain the dose/intervention and any side effects
- Use existing support, e.g. Research Design Service, CRNs and CTUs (for trials)

PPI

- Who are the relevant stakeholders?
- Embed 'PPI' throughout from topic identification or design stage.
  - recruitment information and strategies
  - identify outcomes that matter to patients
  - ensure data collection methods are not burdensome
  - readable plain English summary
  - communicating results to patients and public
- appropriate remuneration for time and expenses (see INVOLVE)

Plan appropriate dissemination

- Is there an appropriate pathway to dissemination and impact?
  - What are the next steps after the project has completed?
  - How will the research affect current practice?
- How will the stakeholders be involved?
- Plan dissemination to participants (with PPI)

Common reasons for rejection

- Failure to demonstrate that the topic matters (and to whom)
- Research questions are ill-defined, unfocused or unsupported
- Contradictions, unclear flow between objectives and research design (poor proof reading)
- Omission of key literature references
- Methods unsuitable, flawed or unlikely to yield results
- insufficient detail to convince reviewers
- Research team lacks relevant experience
- Insufficient recognition of potential problems eg recruitment
- Inadequate response to Stage 1 panel feedback

Role of NIHR RDS

Provide advice and guidance on all aspects of research design and conduct in England

http://www.rds.nihr.ac.uk/

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

- Details of the call are available at: https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/themed-calls/frailty.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:

- 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/frailty.htm
- If you have any additional queries please contact themedcalls@nihr.ac.uk