

Dear all

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Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 funding calls and resources



Our friends at RDS London have put together a really useful webpage, which is updated frequently with the latest funding calls and resources for researchers looking at COVID-19.

Visit the website [here](#).

RDS WM post award support-we are here to help

If you are conducting a research project for which you received funding from an open, national, peer-reviewed funding scheme and are currently experiencing problems - e.g. due to COVID 19 and the impact lockdown has had on many studies - the RDS can assist you with problems you may be having relating to issues of research design. We can provide assistance whether or not you had RDS support when submitting your study for funding. Do feel free to contact us, either to your local hub or by sending a general support request via our [website](#)

Please note, however, that if you need advice that is *not* to do with research design – e.g. relating to research governance, funding, and logistical issues – this is probably best sought elsewhere, e.g. a Research and Development Department in your organization or the [NIHR Clinical Research Network \(CRN\)](#).

COVID-19: Info, updates and resources

Gov.uk - New synthetic datasets to assist COVID-19 and cardiovascular research (supporting medical technologies)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Agency (MHRA) has announced the creation of two innovative synthetic datasets which will support the development of cutting-edge medical technologies to fight coronavirus (COVID-19) and cardiovascular disease.

Synthetic datasets like these are valuable in the development and testing of machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms in medical devices used for diagnosing diseases and monitoring and improving health conditions.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR: Two-month update on implementation of the Restart Framework

On 21 May 2020, the NIHR published a Framework to support the restarting of research paused due to COVID-19. Developed in partnership with multiple stakeholders and the devolved nations, the framework provides a flexible structure for local decision-making. The goal is to restore a fully active portfolio of NIHR research while continuing to support important COVID-19 studies as part of the Government response to the pandemic.

This update includes:

- Key learnings
- The latest CRN data
- Restarting NIHR programme studies
- Clinical academics returning to research
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Find out more [here](#)

Latest COVID-19 funding opportunities

Action Medical Research for Children: Funding for medical research to address the impacts of COVID-19 in children

Details: Action Medical Research is calling for applications to address the pathobiology, physical and mental health impacts of COVID-19 in children and young people. The aim of the charity is to prevent and treat disease and disability by funding vital medical research in hospitals or research institutions across the UK.

For this call the remit covers the unborn child, infants, children and young people (CYP) up to the age of 25 years. Projects must feature CYP at the centre of the research. Researchers should address unmet need and clarify how research can make a novel advance with impact to our understanding of paediatric disease, diagnosis, treatment and/or health system policy. Proposed add-ons to funded larger studies focused on children and young people may be accepted but must show clear added value.

Deadline for proposals: 25th August 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Heart Research UK: Covid-19 Research Grant

Details: Heart Research UK is offering a Covid-19 specific research grant to support research into the links between Covid-19 and heart disease. People with existing cardiovascular disease have a higher risk of severe complications from Covid-19 infection, and evidence is emerging that the virus can cause damage to the heart. There is a pressing need to improve our understanding of the links between Covid-19 and the cardiovascular system, including how Covid-19 infection influences heart disease and whether it changes the ways in which we treat patients.

Deadline for proposals: 12th October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR: Research to inform policy responses to COVID-19 in the health and social care systems

Details: The NIHR Policy Research Programme is running a funding call for research to inform policy responses to COVID-19 in the health and social care systems. Priorities announced in the second round include risks of being overweight/obese, causes of disparities in health outcomes for Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, policies mitigating poor outcomes for disabled people, addressing challenges in social care practice, and building organisational resilience to AMR.

Please only apply to this initiative if your proposal is for research on a national policy question, informing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic or helping us learn from responses to the pandemic to inform recovery. Topics are set out in more detail in the Research Specification and may be updated in the “New Priorities Highlights” section.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 22nd October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

RDS blog: Health economics

Despite being an indispensable part of research for many funding bodies and programs, health economics is still an enigma for many researchers. Our RDS blog this month looks at the economic questions we need to incorporate into our research and illustrates how health economics can be used to support public health, health promotion, and disease prevention policies such as the ones we've seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Find out more [here](#)



Latest NIHR funding calls

NIHR PHR Programme: Continuing priority research topics

Details: The purpose of this call is to draw attention to the following commissioning briefs that have been previously advertised. These represent enduring gaps in our portfolio that the NIHR would like to fill with high quality research. The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following topics:

- **18/72 Gang violence and gang related harms to health**
- **14/54 Health improvement interventions for offender or ex-offenders**
- **15/54 Promoting healthy eating in minority ethnic groups**
- **16/39 Mid-life and physical exercise**
- **17/55 Promoting independence in older people**
- **18/138 Suicide prevention in high risk groups**
- **19/52 The impact of highway infrastructure and its management on the safety (or perceived safety) of pedestrians and cyclists, and the uptake of active transport**

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 17th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR PHR Programme: Researcher-led workstream

Details: The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.

This researcher-led call is open to all relevant research areas, but there is a highlight notice for brain tumours. (Details of the highlight notice can be found on the [themed calls page](#))

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 17th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR HTA Programme: Potential research topics

Details: The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme funds research about the clinical and cost-effectiveness and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care from NHS and social care services.

The HTA Programme is considering the following topics for future commissioned research:

- **Suspending proton pump inhibitors to reduce Clostridium difficile infection**
- **Colpocleisis for the treatment of pelvic organ prolapse in older women**
- **Pre-operative exclusive enteral nutrition for Crohn's disease**
- **Stopping routine measurement of gastric residual volume in neonatal critical care**
- **Stopping routine measurement of gastric residual volume in paediatric critical care**
- **Improving communication for children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities**
- **Sexual health promotion in people with severe mental illness**
- **Standardised and structured tinnitus assessment in general practice**

The likely advert date for these topics, if prioritised, is late November 2020. However, please note this is an indicative date, which may change.

Find out more [here](#)

RDS West Midlands can offer free expert support and advice on all aspects of designing and developing applications for NIHR funding and other peer reviewed funding bodies– please complete our online Request for Support form to gain access to our advice.

NIHR Funding deadlines calendar

For an overview of the year's NIHR calls and ongoing opportunities, please view the online calendar: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/>

Funding Calls from other bodies

MRC Public Health Intervention scheme

Details: The MRC Public Health Intervention Development (PHIND) scheme was established to support the early stages of development of interventions that address an important UK or global public health issue. The aim of the scheme is to generate the necessary evidence to underpin the later development and evaluation of novel public health interventions. The scheme supports projects that will develop innovative new interventions that address an important UK or global public health issue.

For this call, applicants are encouraged to consider the incorporation of systems thinking in population-level intervention development research. To address public health challenges, such as air pollution, domestic violence and alcohol-related harm, public health interventions have to operate in a landscape that involves a wide array of people, organisations, structures and relationships. There is a growing recognition that systems thinking and taking a systems-based approach, involving stakeholders from across the system, can help to ensure a more holistic approach to tackling public health issues. It is justifiable to focus on just one aspect of a system as long as the wider systems context is recognised, for example in the framework for evaluation.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 15th September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

MRC Clinical Academic Research Partnerships

Details: This scheme provides a new flexible route for research-qualified healthcare professionals at consultant level or equivalent to increase their research skills and experience by engaging with groups and centres of biomedical and health research excellence, enabling the cross-seeding of perspectives, ideas and connections needed to underpin future translational biomedical and health research.

The scheme provides a mechanism for healthcare professionals at consultant level or equivalent with a PhD, or MD (or equivalent postgraduate qualification) who are not undertaking any substantive research activity but, wish to develop their research interests through collaborative high-quality research partnerships with established leading biomedical and health researchers.

Projects are welcome across all areas of the partnering funders' remits and interests. Applications may range from basic discovery science to translational and applied health research, and may address research questions from disease-specific mechanistic hypotheses through to research in priority areas such as primary care, population health, public health, mental health, molecular pathology and other areas as outlined in MRC's strategic plan.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 29th October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowship Opportunities

MRC Senior Non-Clinical Fellowship

Details: The SNCF supports researchers with a track record of effectively leading their own independent research to make the transition to research leadership and become an internationally recognised leader in their field. An SNCF provides funding for a challenging research programme, and an ambitious programme of research training which offers accelerated personal and career development.

Applications are welcome across all areas of the MRC's scientific remit. Applications may range from basic studies with relevance to mechanisms of disease to translational and developmental clinical research.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 16th September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

MRC Career Development Award

Details: The CDA supports talented post-doctoral researchers to lead their own research plans and establish their own research team to make the transition from post-doctoral researcher to independent investigator. A CDA provides funding for a challenging research programme, and an ambitious programme of research training which offers accelerated personal and career development.

You can apply across all areas of the MRC's scientific remit. Applications may range from basic studies with relevance to mechanisms of disease to translational and developmental clinical research.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 16th September 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

The King's Fund: Quality improvement and patient empowerment: how technology can facilitate a new era of care

What: It has been a challenging year for the health and care sector, but the response to the Covid-19 pandemic has shown how technological innovation can bring about substantial improvement in efficiency of care. This event will look at the proven benefits that technological solutions offer to complex problems, transforming the quality of care and patient experience for greater numbers of people.

Using the orthopaedic pathway in Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust as a case study, we will explore in depth how the adoption and integration of technology can help NHS trusts deliver on elective surgeries that were postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

When: 11:00-12:00 on 9th September 2020

Where: Online

Cost: Free

Find out more [here](#)

The King's Fund: Integrating care: how to develop evidence-based solutions to improve patient journeys

What: Effectively integrating different parts of the health and care system can have a real impact on patient safety and care. Discharging patients to the next stage of care, for example from an acute to a community setting, can be complex, with lots of potential difficulties. This event will explore ways to improve continuity of care and the role of data in creating reliable solutions to improve people's outcomes and experiences of care.

In this free online event you will learn about:

- how to use data efficiently to increase real-time visibility of people receiving and needing care, to help make the right decisions about the next stage of care
- lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic on creating integrated pathways and working with data to support this
- how the data revolution can help to create more cohesion between acute, community and social care
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When: 11:00-12:00 on 26th August 2020

Where: Online

Cost: Free

Find out more [here](#)

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

As you may be aware, the NIHR CRN portfolio, which was paused since the start of the pandemic to allow full focus on COVID-19 research, has recently restarted. Support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Team for any study that is potentially eligible or applying for CRN Support. This includes providing cost attribution advice to support researchers in completing their grant applications and authorising the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT), navigating the approvals process, accessing training provided by the Network, identifying and supporting the management of excess treatment costs, and can highlight further support within the Network to support study set up and delivery to time and target. Please note that prioritisation of support will be for nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research studies.

For more information please contact: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk.
Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>

Applying for NIHR funding? Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands

Our multi-disciplinary team can offer advice on the key ingredients in a successful health or social care research proposal, including:

- Statistics and health economics
- Qualitative methodology
- Support on involving patients and public in research, identified by the NIHR as a critical component in funding applications
- Peer review of draft grant applications before submission.

Find out more about how RDS West Midlands could help you and your team at <http://www.rds-wm.nihr.ac.uk/>

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