

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

For ICMR's Task Force multicentre implementation research study on high quality acute emergency care systems in 4-6 districts in selected states of the country:

Background:

Since India's adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, including Goal 3 "Ensure healthy lives & promote well-being of all at all ages", there have been calls for more integrated, high-value approaches to healthcare delivery in the country. Emergency care systems (ECS) address a wide range of acute conditions, including conditions from communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, pregnancy and injury. Well-organised, integrated acute emergency care is a promising health platform; improvement in pre hospital and facility based care has the potential to reduce annual deaths in the country by half. However, the current acute emergency care system suffers from severe fragmentation, thereby causing lack of system-wise coordination and accountability for using set of resources to their maximum efficacy.

A study conducted in 34 district hospitals across the country by NITI Ayog, reported in 2021 that emergency and injury cases accounted for 19%-36% of annual hospital admissions. Several gaps were identified in delivery of emergency care; and first recommendation suggested by the research team was to "develop a robust integrated emergency care service system which can comprehensively address all medical, surgical emergencies inclusive of trauma related care". There is limited research in the country on:

- (a) components of emergency care (pre-hospital, in-hospital and post-hospital care) which need to be addressed to have the greatest impact,
- (b) strategies to be used to effectively improve quality and expand access to acute emergency care services,
- (c) how to best match emergency care delivery to context (eg: task shifting) and
- (d) context appropriate quality indicators to be used to allow uniform collection of data targeted at enhancing acute emergency care delivery throughout India.

This paucity of research leaves policy-makers and planners with little guidance to inform resource allocation and effective programme development and assessment.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s Division of Non Communicable Diseases invites applications to conduct a multicentre implementation research study that improves immediate and long term outcomes in patients with acute emergency conditions including ST elevated myocardial infarction (STEMI), stroke, trauma, poisoning, acute respiratory illness, preeclampsia and postpartum haemorrhage by improving quality of care in district public health care system.

In the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Haryana, a project of similar nature is being underway through ICMR funding. In this call for EOI, states other than the six mentioned above, should be selected. The research will be undertaken in 4-6 districts of different states to understand the region specific issues and develop contextual acute emergency care models.

Expression of Interest (EOI) are requested from a team with multi-disciplinary expertise to deal with the technical and operational issues related to the proposed implementation research.

Teams selected based on evaluation of EOIs will work together to develop a detailed proposal and it will be placed before Task Force Committee (independent external reviewers).

Proposed objectives, design and setting:

Aim of this project is to design and implement a model of high quality integrated acute emergency care across three tiers of health care facilities in a few districts of selected states.

The model should be embedded in the existing district health system and result in reducing mortality and morbidity owing to acute medical emergencies, utilising the manpower and infrastructure of the facilities.

Implementation should focus on addressing bottlenecks in the system affecting quality care for patients with acute emergency conditions at different service delivery nodes at district and sub district level. Measurable process and outcomes indicators will be critical for assessing the research project.

Reproducibility and local adaptability will be key for scaling up of a successful model in future.

Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted**A. Rationale of proposed study states and districts to be included.**

You may include issues related to perceived need for the study and likelihood of utilisation of the model by stakeholders in future. Evidence from previous time sensitive acute emergency care studies in the country; current system of emergency care at district level and any district or state specific challenges etc. may be included. Rationale for choice of states and districts may also be provided.

B. Implementation Strategy:

A brief outline of implementation strategy should be given. You may include timeline, steps of implementation, and measures of outcome, data management and deliverables. You may also include preparatory activities, mapping, pre-hospital care, triage etc.

C. Research Team:

You should summarise and justify composition of the research team, based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementation of the project. Role and responsibility of each team members should be outlined here.

D. Established Relationship with state and district health systems.

Operational feasibility would be key for this Implementation Research study. Hence it might be prudent to include people from district health system as a team member for the study. The EOI should also describe the existing or proposed liaising with district health system where the study is proposed to be undertaken.

Illustrative Budget outline (additional to the 5-page limit)

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team/s in discussion with ICMR. In this EOI, we request you to provide an illustrative high-level budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring contingency, data management, travel and equipment and 3% administrative costs (on all items other than travel and equipment). Duration of the project may be mentioned.

One-page CV of principal investigator and other key investigators (additional to the 5-page limit)

Please provide a one-page CV of the PI and other key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- Academic and professional qualifications
- Current position and affiliation
- Up to 5 most relevant previous research grants
- 5 most relevant previous publications

Review process:

The Expression of Interest documents will be reviewed and shortlisted by ICMR. The applications will be screened by ICMR team for eligibility for technical correctness.

Thereafter, teams shortlisted will prepare a detailed proposal jointly for the Multicentre Implementation Research Project. The detailed proposal will be reviewed by Task Force Committee. Based on clarity on study design, feasibility of the proposed design, suitability of the proposed district, high quality data management capacity, demonstration of prior experience/preliminary data, demonstrable engagement with public health system and potential for seamless integration within the public health system. Based on the recommendation of PRC, ICMR decide on the grant amount and other formalities.

The **results of selection process** will be notified to the teams in early June 2023. The selected teams will contribute to development of the research proposal that will be coordinated and submitted to ICMR at the end of July 2023. The selected research teams will therefore need to be able to commit appropriate time and effort in the weeks ahead of this. Tentative timelines are attached as Annexure A.

To submit a proposal to ICMR:

The EOI guidance above should be followed for submission no later than 17th May 5pm IST (Wednesday).

EOI should be sent by email to meenakshis.hq@icmr.gov.in ; ncd.neurology@gmail.com . EOI received after this date will not be considered for review or selection.

For further information contact:**Programme Coordinator:**

Dr. Meenakshi Sharma

Scientist 'G'

Division of Non Communicable Diseases

Indian Council of Medical Research

Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

Email: meenakshis.hq@icmr.gov.in ; smeenakshi@hotmail.com ; ncd.neurology@gmail.com

Phone No.: 9810376304

Annexure A

Last date for submission of EOI	17th May 2023
Review and short listing of EOI	30 th May 2023
ICMR – Investigator Team Discussion for Full Proposal - Videoconferencing	6th June 2023
ICMR - Investigator Proposal Fine Tuning Workshop	1st July 2023
Submission of Full Proposals	30th July 2023