



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद्
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

No: 50/1/TF-CVD/2023-NCD-I

Date: 16/06/2023

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

For ICMR's Implementation Research Study on Ambulatory Care for Non-Communicable Diseases in Public Health Care Systems in India

Overview

India's public primary health care system was built to cater to maternal and child health and infectious diseases. However, NCDs currently comprise the largest proportion of the disease burden in the health care system. Managing non-communicable diseases needs lifelong care support and a reliable information system to track and follow up with patients to monitor indicators and prevent complications. The National Programme for Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), earlier known as the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS), was established in 2010, aims at the management of NCDs through early diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up in the NCD clinics with a programmatic goal to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases through effective prevention and control of NCDs in public health care system. Under this ambit, a need exists to develop and test pragmatic strategies for implementing known and effective interventions to provide ambulatory care for non-communicable conditions.

One such example is the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI), built on the existing framework of NP-NCD since 2018, which is being implemented in 140+ districts of the country and has demonstrated reasonable success in registering and retaining patients with hypertension and controlling blood pressure. The IHCI was built on the World Health Organization (WHO)'s HEARTS strategies- simple drug and dose-specific protocols, uninterrupted availability of medications, patient-centered care, a team-based approach with task sharing, and a reliable information system. At this stage, it is crucial to expand the implementation strategies to ambulatory care for other non-communicable conditions. Therefore, this expression of interest is aimed at developing practical, scalable, and sustainable strategies that provide evidence-based effective management of non-communicable diseases in India's public healthcare systems under NP-NCD.

Priority Implementation Research Question

How to deliver effective non-communicable diseases (NCD) ambulatory care in public primary health care systems using a combination of strategies, including the use of available point-of-care testing for diagnosis and follow-up, capacity building of providers to reduce physician inertia, use of easy-to-use treatment algorithms, improved supply logistics of essential drugs and diagnostics and simplified data information systems?

Interested research teams may submit the EOI with the following components.

A. NCD conditions and districts (< 1000 words)

a. NCD conditions

The proposed study should address at least three major NCD conditions (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases) and their risk factors (hypertension, dyslipidemia, obesity), as well as secondary prevention. The proposal should focus on the ambulatory continuum of care (outpatient care) in the public health system, not acute/emergency care.

b. Selection of states and districts

The investigators may choose 1-2 districts for the implementation and provide justification for chosen districts. Please note that operational feasibility would be key for this implementation research study. Include the collaborations that have been established with the potential stakeholders and participants, including state and district health and educational systems, along with the management of select institutions

B. Concept proposal (<2000 words)

a. Proposed interventions and implementation strategies

A brief on the intervention implementation strategies should be included. The strategies suggested in the research question (use of available point-of-care testing for diagnosis and follow-up, capacity building of providers to reduce physician inertia, easy-to-use treatment algorithms, improved supply logistics of essential drugs and diagnostics, and simplified data information systems) are indicative. The investigator may choose all or a few of the suggested strategies and include other relevant strategies with justification.

Note that the implementation strategies should be embedded in the existing district health system by utilizing the manpower and infrastructure of the facilities. Implementation should focus on strengthening the NP-NCD, improving processes, and addressing bottlenecks in the system affecting quality care for patients.

All implementation should be done by the state/district health functionaries. The role of the research team is to provide implementation support and concurrent process and outcome measurements using qualitative and quantitative approaches.

b. Implementation research design and outline of research plan

A brief on the proposed implementation research design and research outcomes should be provided. The design should be mixed methods measuring the processes and implementation outcomes (not just the disease outcomes). Reproducibility, and local adaptability will be key for scaling up a successful model in the future.

C. Research team (<500 words)

Summarize and justify the composition of the research team based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementing the project. Also, highlight the skill set and expertise the members shall bring to the research team for developing the final protocol and research project implementation.

D. Established Relationships with the health system (<500 words)

Operational feasibility would be the key to this Implementation research study. The EoI should also describe the existing or proposed liaising with the district/state health system where the study is proposed to be undertaken.

E. Experiences in population-based research - three examples (<250 words each)

Provide a brief on the three best examples of implementation research/health system research/population or community-based research in which the proposed research team has led/conducted/participated. In the three examples, highlight the role of the proposed research team member/s and explain the integration with district/state health departments (if any).

F. Additional documents

a. Illustrative Budget outline

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring contingency, data management, travel, and equipment.

b. One-page CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators in a single pdf

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

- a. Academic and professional qualifications
- b. Current position and affiliation
- c. Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- d. Up to five most relevant previous publications

Review process:

The EOI documents will be evaluated and shortlisted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR expert team will screen the applications using five major criteria

- Relevance and understanding of the problem -20%
- Intervention implementation strategies and research methods- 20%
- Research team composition -20%
- Capacity to conduct implementation research-20%
- Relationship with the health system-20%

What is the next step?

The shortlisted teams will be invited to collaborate and develop a detailed proposal coordinated through ICMR HQ. The developed proposal will be evaluated by the expert group for the technical and operational aspects.

Who can submit the EOI?

The EOI can be submitted through ONLINE MODE ONLY by scientists/ professionals with regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition, including a DSIR certificate should be available).

Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI

1. The EOI must address the specific research question in the call text.
2. Collaborative, interdisciplinary research teams will be encouraged.
3. Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should fill out the Google form at the below link and submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** as per the Format given above. Only shortlisted PI will be contacted

Link - <https://forms.gle/Gsi9srQfezQkd1iz8>

Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	16 th June 2023
Last date for submission of EOI	16 th July 2023
Shortlisting of EOIs	15 th Aug 2023
Proposal Development Workshop	15 th September 2023
Submission of a full proposal	15 th October 2023

For any queries related to the call, please contact

Dr. Roopa Shivashankar,

Scientist-E

Division of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

Indian Council of Medical Research

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Government of India

Ansari Nagar, New Delhi - 110029, India

Ph: +91-9312065025

Email: shivashankar.r@icmr.gov.in