



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
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: IST/MH/2023-NCD-II

Date: 13/06/2023

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

For ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on Integration of Screening and Treatment of mental disorders with NCDs

Overview

In 2018, WHO included mental health disorders in the list of major NCDs. Further, there have been evidence of existing comorbidities between major physical NCDs (cancers, diabetes, CVDs) and mental health disorders. Furthermore, persons with mental disorders and substance use disorders are at an increased risk of NCDs. It has been observed that people with mental health disorders

Mental disorders including anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, psychotic disorders, and substance use disorders have a significant impact on the overall health and well-being of individuals. In India, the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is increasing. This has led to a double burden of disease. There is a need for integrated interventions that address both mental health and NCDs at all levels of healthcare delivery, especially at the primary care level. The aim of this EOI is to identify researchers from across the country to join the team being constituted for ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on the Integration of Screening and Treatment of mental disorders with NCDs. The selected researchers shall be invited to join the research team and shall collaborate to develop a full research proposal and roll out the multisite research project under the guidance of ICMR, Hqrs. The process of development of protocol and research project implementation shall be reviewed by an independent Task Force Committee. The goal is to offer integrated mental health care with an aim to improve mental health outcomes and reduce the burden due to mental disorders including substance use disorders and NCDs in India.

Objectives

- To encourage the implementation of evidence-based approaches for the integration of screening and treatment of mental disorders with NCDs at the primary care level in the country.
- Prioritize the development and evaluation of practical, scalable, and sustainable solutions focusing on the integration of local knowledge and expertise in the design and implementation of research projects.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships between government agencies (health and non-health sectors), non-governmental organizations, mental health professionals, and community-based /Faith-based organizations to address the integration of mental health and NCDs in the country.

Priority Research Question

How can we overcome the difficulties in integrating screening and treatment for mental disorders (anxiety, depression, psychosis and substance use disorders) with NCD care into all outpatients visit to health & wellness centre, primary health centres, CHCs and district hospitals?

Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected from the research project that shall be developed and implemented by the team under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs:

- Development of effective strategies for rolling out and scaling up evidence-based interventions for the integration of care for mental health and NCDs in public health-world settings.
- Improved access to integrated mental health and NCD services at all levels of care including the primary care level in the country.
- Enhanced understanding of the factors that influence the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of integrated mental health and NCD services in the country.
- Increased collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers and beneficiaries (patients and their families) to facilitate the translation of research findings into policy-ready interventions developed through a defined process that are relevant to the Indian healthcare system.
- Strategies developed through the implementation research process to create linkages between national programmes related to mental health and NCDs in a feasible and scalable manner.

Target Population:

Public health care delivery systems at different levels of care, including the primary level of care.

Research design:

A range of research designs, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, mixed methods design, and implementation science frameworks

Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted(max 2 pages)

A. Rationale of proposed study including the choice of sites (states and districts) to be included where the implementation shall be carried out

The proposal should clearly state the rationale for the study, the recommended sites (states and districts) and the likelihood of utilization of the model by stakeholders in the future. A mix of rural and urban settings will be preferred. The proposal can also provide evidence from previous research on the topic in the county or elsewhere, and describe any district or state-specific challenges related to implementation for the target group(s).

B. Implementation Strategy

Provide a clear and detailed description of the intervention(s) to be implemented, including the target population, the intervention components, and the implementation strategies. You may include preparatory activities, mapping, a timeline (Gantt Chart), steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

C. Address feasibility and scalability

Address the feasibility and scalability of the proposed intervention or policy, including the resources needed for implementation, the capacity of the implementing organization, and the potential for wider adoption and scale-up.

D. Research Team

Summarise 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 that shall be constituted by the ICMR Hqrs for the development of final protocol and research project implementation.

E. Established relationships with state and district health systems

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 systems.

Illustrative Budget outline (additional to the 2-page limit)

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.

One-page CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators (additional to the 2-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 five most relevant previous research grants
- Upto five most relevant previous publications

Review process:

The EOI documents for the Multistate Implementation Research Project on the Integration of Screening and Treatment of mental disorders with NCDs will be evaluated and shortlisted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR team will screen the applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. The shortlisted teams will then collaborate to develop a detailed proposal, under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs, which then will be reviewed by an independent Task Force Committee. The proposal will be evaluated based on factors such as study design, feasibility, data management capabilities, prior experience, engagement with public health and potential for seamless integration. The feasibility and suitability of integration of the proposed methodology in the final proposal to be developed under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs shall also be considered while shortlisting the EOI.

Who can submit the EOI?

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

Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI

1. The EOI must address the specific research question that is mentioned in the call text.

2. Collaborative, multi-centre, interdisciplinary, innovative research initiatives from the applicant will be encouraged.
3. Descriptive studies, systematic reviews and secondary data analysis will not be considered
4. Should focus on outcomes that are translatable into policy.
5. Evaluation of the development of indigenous technologies and solutions relevant to the Indian context may be prioritized
6. 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/YcfraVdT2asXYdga8>

Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	13- June-2023
Last date for submission of EOI	15- July -2023
Shortlisting of EOIs	10-August-2023
Proposal Development Workshop	10-September-2023
Submission of a full proposal	25-September- 2023

For any queries related to the call, please contact

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