

NICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

Introduction

You are required to make a proposal as to how you will spend your time as a scholar. The purpose of this document is to provide some suggested areas in which NICE would be keen to receive applications. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of projects that will be accepted by the selection panel but they will look favourably on proposals in these areas and NICE may be able to offer you more support if undertaking one of these projects. NICE encourages you to propose a project which is in line with your expertise and interests and will contribute to increased quality of care.

Guidance

Scholarships are open to a wide range of individuals from across health, public health and social care and therefore many types of project will be suitable. You may find it useful to look at the types of projects previous scholars have carried out (scholars).

Before making a scholarship proposal, you should establish that:

- The project is feasible and methodologically robust
- All ethics and governance issues have been identified, including any local arrangements
- It can be completed within the 1-year period of your scholarship, with approximately 7.5 hours per week dedicated to the scholarship project
- You have the necessary support of your employing organisation.

Examples

Implementation of guidance

NICE guidance delivers no benefit if it is not implemented. A proposal may be to implement one or more pieces of guidance.

Support and resources to help make the most of NICE guidance and quality standards can be found here: <http://www.nice.org.uk/About/What-we-do/Into-practice>

NICE endorses tools to support the implementation of NICE guidance. More information can be found here: <https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/into-practice/endorsement>

A NICE project could involve reviewing aspects of care in your local area against metrics defined by NICE guidance. This could be via an audit.

Public health

NICE has been producing guidance on public health since 2005. Many of the project suggestions could be undertaken in the area of public health and NICE would look to support scholars working on projects in this area.

Use of core outcomes in existing NICE guidelines

The guidelines team are keen to work with a scholar to look at the use of core outcomes within existing NICE guidelines.

They want to explore in clinical guidelines published from 2014 onwards:

- In evidence reviews, which reviews had searched for published core outcome sets (COS), and how they were used
- In evidence reviews, where core outcome sets were searched for the reviews, what is the proportion that published COS actually exist
- In evidence reviews, where outcomes were chosen by the Committee, what is the proportion of overlaps between committee chosen outcomes and existing COS
- If capacity allowed, they would also like to conduct an online survey to explore with current/previous committee members about their awareness of COS in their area, and their views of its utility.

They want to find out where COS wasn't used to explore was it because:

- Guideline/committee not aware of it?
- Committee didn't think the published COS is appropriate?
- And where the committee had chosen the outcomes based on their expert knowledge, what is the proportion of overlaps between committee chosen outcomes and existing COS?

The guidelines team would provide support to a scholars working in this area.

Involvement in development of Quality Standards (QS)

A project for a scholar could be to shadow the development period of a QS and support the engagement with stakeholders and national bodies. There could be an opportunity to work with the NICE QS team to show you through the process, observe committee meetings and engage with some of the national stakeholders on board for the different topics.

Topics that are likely to be in the early stages of development when scholars are starting include:

- Elective joint replacement
- Workplace health: long-term sickness absence and management
- Internal air: health effects
- Suspected neurological conditions
- End of life care for adults (update)
- VTE in adults (update)

Implementation of Quality Standards (QS)

Scholars could take a published QS and get it used in practice locally. The NICE QS team could chat to you about how it was developed and provide advice on how to implement it locally. The scholar could support the QS team with engaging with relevant stakeholders and national bodies to encourage uptake of the QS.

Published topics can be [viewed here](#).

Currently in development topics that are likely to be publishing when scholars are starting include:

- Community pharmacy: promoting health and wellbeing
- Termination of pregnancy services
- Carers: provision of support for adult carers
- Foetal alcohol spectrum disorders
- Faltering growth
- Heavy menstrual bleeding (update)

The social care team would be willing to work with scholars looking at the implementation of published relevant QS, such as:

- Children's attachment
- Decision making and mental capacity
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Learning disability: care and support of people growing older
- Learning disability: behaviour that challenges

- Mental wellbeing of older people in care homes
- Oral health in care homes
- People's experience of adult social care services
- Service user experience in adult mental health services
- Transition from children's to adults' services

Social care

NICE has a [Quality improvement resource \(QIR\)](#) for adult social care which maps NICE quality standards against Care Quality Commission key lines of enquiry. NICE would be interested in applications focusing on how the content of the QIR could be used to drive and evidence quality in provider's practice.

NICE guidance supports integrated health and social care practice. For example, NICE guidance for people with Autism, people with learning disabilities and transition from hospital to communities, have strategic recommendations and practitioner recommendations which support joint working across health and social care. NICE would be interested in applications which show how NICE recommendations and quality statements support integrated commissioning.

NICE is a What Works Centre that works with practice experts and people with lived experience to systematically review a wide range of evidence, taking into account ethics and resource impact. NICE's evidence-based guidance for children's and adult's social care complements other sources of information and legislation to support professional judgement and person-centred decision making for social workers. NICE would welcome applications which demonstrate how social workers could use NICE guidance to inform their decisions and how this meets professional standards from Social Work England.

Science Policy and Research

NICE has an active science policy and research programme, which provides leadership and co-ordination for our research and development needs.

The team are currently interested in receiving applications focusing on the following topic:

- Methods for measuring and valuing health-related quality of life in children and young people

NICE is also interested in applications focusing on opportunities and challenges of using observational data, especially data linkage, use of shared records etc.

Interventional Procedures Programme

NICE would be keen to receive applications looking at intelligence on implementation of interventional procedures (IP) guidance and measuring the use of IP guidance.

Medicines and Technologies

NICE is considering how medicines content can be brought together in the form of medicines or prescribing pathways to help users of our guidance understand where different treatments fit in the care pathway. New processes and methods will be considered for developing, reviewing and updating the pathways which will be developed with input from experts from across the organisation along with key stakeholders, prior to consultation. A project aligned to this work would be beneficial.

Public Involvement

NICE are interested in the role of evidence generated by and about patients and the public. For example, experience-based data and qualitative research.

NICE are interested in online communities and their contributions to evidence, policy and guidance.

A scholar may want to pick a familiar subject area and look at the patient contribution, including barriers and facilitators, of implementing guidance at a local level. This could include the role of practitioner-patient communication for shared decision making.

NICE produce [quick guides for social care](#). A project might look at recently published quick guides aimed at users and carers or the user experience.

How NICE guidance is written

NICE are always looking for ways to improve the way guidance is presented. In surveys and interviews, people who use NICE guidance tell us that they would like it to be more concise and clearly written. NICE would be interested in a proposal to find out how people read and use guidance in practice, how NICE might improve the way that it is presented and to test some different approaches to the format of recommendations. This will help NICE identify ways to make guidance as relevant, clear and easy to use as possible.

Shared decision making

NICE is keen to ensure guidelines support shared decision making (SDM). We do this by highlighting preference sensitive decision points, and make sure that they are framed in a way that can be used. We also, on occasion, produce patient decision aids which are designed to be used during a conversation between a patient and

their clinician to discuss the options available. A project looking at SDM would be welcome, particularly how risk is communicated, patient perceptions and experiences of shared decision making, and ways of empowering patients to take an active role in decisions about their care.

NICE has traditionally produced shared decision aids for medicines and would be interested in developing these for other medical technologies for example surgical interventions for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or contraceptive devices and medicines.

Planning for the financial impact of NICE guidance

NICE is keen to help the Health and Social Care system plan for the financial impact of NICE guidance. A project looking at how organisations currently plan for the financial impact of guidance, whether existing NICE resource impact tools are used, and what other support could be provided by NICE would be welcomed.