

Research Training Fellowship 2027: Outline application guidance

Please read this guidance carefully. It provides information on the requirements for Action Research Training Fellowship (RTF) **outline** applications and how to complete the application form. The guidance corresponds to each page of the application form on Action's Grant Management System (GMS). You can quickly navigate around this guidance using the pdf bookmarks or links in the table of contents.

Applications that do not follow this guidance will not be accepted. If you have any questions about the guidance or what is required email applications@action.org.uk

Application Deadline: 7 July 2026 5pm

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Starting an Outline Application

Registration: To start an application you must register on Action's grant management system (GMS) to access the online application form. If you have previously applied to Action, when you register you will receive an email asking you to reset your password. Action's GMS uses Flexigrant software, if you have an account with another funder that uses Flexigrant you still need to register on Action's GMS.

Contact details: Once registered, you can fill out your details in the **My contact details** tab on the left-hand side of the screen. This will autofill application forms started after the contacted details section has been filled in. Provide a work not home address - the database may suggest non-UK addresses but only UK addresses are eligible. Select your organisation from the drop down list all eligible UK organisations (universities and hospitals) should be available.

Application forms: Links to application forms for open grant rounds can be found on the **Available grants** tab. Once you have started an application you can access the application form from the **My applications** tab, but as you can only submit one application per grant round it will no longer appear in the **Available grants** tab.

The Fellowship candidate (not supervisor) must start the application form as the Principal Investigator (PI).

Summary Page

The **Summary** page of the application sets out the information required in order to submit an application. For an RTF outline application there are four application pages as well as CV and EDI forms.

Application Form

Number	Page
1	Applicant Details
2	Research Plan and Impact
3	Finance and Resources
4	Previous Applications and Awards

As you progress through the form you can save your progress. If you save and information is incomplete or does not meet the application requirements a warning will appear at the top of the page. We recommend you save the form regularly, if your login is timed out unsaved changes may be lost. **The Submit button appears on the Summary page once all elements of the application are complete.**

EDI form: If this is your first time using the Action GMS you will need to complete the EDI questionnaire. Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) information is used to monitor participation from underrepresented groups, is fully anonymous and will not be associated with your application. If you prefer not to provide this information chose the 'prefer not to say' response to each question.

CV form: Principal Investigator (PI) needs to complete the **CV form** that can be found at the bottom of the **Summary page**. The CV will form part of your application and will also be available for future applications. The CV form is generic for all Action grants but there are some questions that are specific for RTF applicants and these are indicated on the form. The CV form will be important in helping Action confirm that you meet the eligibility requirements for the RTF scheme so please ensure you follow all the guidance here and on the form.

- **Current position:** Please ensure you include your Specialty Training (ST) level or equivalent.
- **Professional qualifications:** List your education qualifications then any professional qualifications: include subject area as well as qualification, institution, year qualification obtained.
- **Clinical academics*:** Indicate if you are a clinical academic, this helps Action track the number of clinical academics it is supporting. For the purposes of this application a definition is provided below.
Clinical academics refers to those Health Care Professionals who work in a Higher Education Institute, in a teaching and/or research role, as well as working clinically in an NHS organisation or other provider of publicly funded health and/or social care. The definition is not restricted to doctors, and includes nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals, midwives and more. A clinical academic will split their time between treating patients and conducting research and/or teaching duties. Their clinical duties can take place in the NHS or elsewhere
[This definition is taken from NHS Employers \(2024\), Implementing Follett principles for health and care professionals: guidance for HEIs and NHS provider organisations.](#)
- **Early career researchers (ECRs)*:** We are asking for an estimate of the number of years you have spent in research to identify early career researchers (ECRs). As there is no consistent definition of an ECR please provide an estimate of the number of years you have spent in research since receiving your PhD (scientists) or clinical qualification (clinicians). Please factor in caring responsibilities, part-time working, career breaks or clinical activity etc that resulted in time away from research.
- **Existing sources of funding:** RTF applicants will normally have only small amounts of funding, if any. Do not include any grants held by your supervisor unless you are a named co-applicant. Indicate your role e.g. PI, co-applicant etc.

* As the CV form is generic for all Action grants it asks whether you are a clinical academic and/or ECR. We expect most RTF applicants will answer yes to these questions.

Applicants Page

The Research Training Fellowship (RTF) scheme aims to train research leaders of the future in child health. Fellowships should be hosted in University departments, teaching hospitals or other recognised research centres within the UK. The fellowship scheme is open to:

- medical graduates
- clinicians
- research nurses
- physiotherapists
- allied health professionals
- bioengineers/biomedical engineers

The scheme is not intended for basic biological scientists or social scientists.

Clinical applicants: Candidates are expected to have at least some experience of research following their first degree. They should have had limited research training and wish to develop a long-term career in academic medicine in the UK in areas relevant to child health. They should be registered with the appropriate body e.g. GMC, NMC, HCPC.

Medical graduates should not have completed their specialist training and usually should not have more than 6 years' experience post-MRCP (or equivalent). Graduates in other health professions will normally have a Master's degree with some research component and at least 5 years' professional experience.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to independently register for a higher degree such as a PhD.

Bioengineers/ biomedical engineers: Postdoctoral researchers can only apply if they are if they are bioengineers/biomedical engineers who are towards the beginning of their research career. We would normally expect bioengineers to have an engineering background/qualification and the fellowship should provide significant new training to pivot into child health research.

All applicants must comply with Home Office requirements and, where appropriate, hold a valid work permit to cover the period of the Research Training Fellowship. Preference will be given to candidates resident in the UK.

Supervisors should be research-active professionals based at UK universities, hospitals or research institutes normally employed in a permanent position.

Applicants and supervisors can only be named on one application per fellowship round.

Collaborators: Collaborations are encouraged where relevant to the project/training. Where appropriate, there must be plans to put in place suitable collaboration agreements. Collaborators can be:

- Researchers that are not named as supervisors but would be collaborating or providing services on the project.
- Subcontractors or patient representatives
- based outside the UK.

Information required from the Fellowship candidate

Details of Principal Investigator: Basic details of the Fellowship candidate (Principal Investigator (PI)) will automatically entered from your registration/**My contact details** into the Details of Principal Investigator details question, you may then need to select edit and complete your contact details. Enter a work not home address - the database may suggest non-UK addresses but only UK addresses are eligible. Only the details of the fellowship candidate should be added to this section, supervisor details are captured below.

CV form: Instructions for completing the CV form are provided above.

Primary institution responsible for administering the award: Only one institution should be included here. In most instances the primary institution responsible for administering the award will be your supervisor's employing organisation. **Only include the organisation (University or hospital) not the department.** If you have filled out the 'My contact details' tab before starting your application the organisation will prefill into the application form. If the organisation administering the award is different to your current organisation this will need to be changed as follows:

1. Find the administering organisation in the search box. All eligible UK organisations should be available via the search

Lead organisation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

function.

2. Click 'Add organisation from our contacts'.
3. Once added check the lead organisation box next to the administering organisation
4. Delete the original organisation.

Main supervisors: Provide details of your main fellowship supervisor and a brief description of their research expertise relevant to the fellowship.

Co-supervisors and collaborators: Provide names and locations of any co-supervisors and collaborators.

Professional registration: Clinical applicants must provide the name of the professional body they are registered with e.g. GMC, NMC, HCPC and registration number. Bioengineers should enter N/A

Research Plan and Impact Page

Eligibility

The Research Training Fellowship (RTF) scheme aims to train research leaders of the future in child health. The fellowship provides the opportunity to undertake a period of research training which will be relevant to applicants' future careers, developing their skills in research techniques and methodology in subjects relevant to Action's remit.

Action's remit focuses on biomedical child health research with the objective of preventing and treating disease and disability including:

- pregnancy and childbirth in the context of the health of the child.
- babies (including unborn babies), children and young people.
- Biomedical clinical research or research at the interface between clinical and basic science.
- medical engineering and research and development of equipment and techniques to improve diagnosis, therapy and assistive technology (including orthoses, prostheses and aids to daily living).
- conditions diagnosed and treated in the UK.

Examples of the research we fund can be found at [Research we fund | Action Medical Research](#).

Opportunities for joint awards with Duchenne UK and Muscular Dystrophy UK



As part of this year's Research Training Fellowship round, Action Medical Research, Duchenne UK and Muscular Dystrophy UK are working together to offer opportunities for joint fellowship awards to increase clinical academic expertise in areas relevant to Muscular Dystrophy.

For the joint award with Duchenne UK the proposed research must focus on paediatric populations. More information on Duchenne UK's areas of interest can be found [Research we fund | Duchenne UK](#). It is expected that applicants will have had some experience of work in a related area and expect to develop their clinical academic career in areas relevant to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). If you are not currently working in DMD, but in an area relevant to DMD, please email applications@action.org.uk to confirm your eligibility to apply for the joint award. This award is being supported by Duchenne UK in loving memory of Shiv Thakrar and his family charity, Smile with Shiv.

For the joint award with Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK) the proposed research must focus on paediatric muscle wasting conditions within MDUK's remit. Information on MDUK's areas and conditions of interest can be found at [Our research strategy - Muscular Dystrophy UK](#) and [Conditions Archive - Muscular Dystrophy UK](#). It is expected that applicants will have had some experience of work in a related area and expect to develop their clinical academic career in areas relevant to neuromuscular conditions. If you are working in an area relevant to neuromuscular conditions but it is not listed on these sites please email applications@action.org.uk to confirm your eligibility to apply for the joint award.

Both the proposed project and fellowship applicant must meet the charities' charitable aims to be considered for funding.

Applications for these joint awards will be considered in open competition through the Action Medical Research peer review system as part of its response mode Research Training Fellowship round.

Applications

Research should be both innovative and of a high standard as judged by rigorous peer review.

Applicants should demonstrate that they have the necessary ability, enthusiasm and commitment to follow through any training. We recommend applicants consider how their application meets the assessment criteria below.

Supervisors should have discussed the basis of the application with the applicant thoroughly to ensure that a sensible programme of training is pursued and to advise on additional experience which may be needed.

It should be clear the proposed fellow has played a significant role in the design of the project and the project is a discrete piece of research that will be driven by the fellow, this is particularly important where the supervisor has an ongoing programme of research in a similar area. **The application form should be completed by the Research Training Fellowship applicant and NOT their supervisor.**

Applicants should provide evidence that they will be given guidance/training in appropriate research techniques and methodology (which may include experimental design, statistics, computing, writing scientific papers/grant applications). The plan should be ambitious but realistic for the time and skill level.

Applicants should be provided with an adequate and specific work area for both research and writing and given an opportunity for oral presentations of their work, and the encouragement to join journal clubs etc. as available.

We recommend that awardees arrange to have a mentor. The mentor should be someone different to supervisors, be able to offer a different perspective and help with personal and professional development.

Limitations and exclusions

These awards should not be viewed as project grant applications to simply extend current research as candidates will be expected to demonstrate a significant training element to their project.

We will not normally consider projects that are similar to projects already under consideration by Action through another grant scheme.

Applicants and supervisors can only be named on one application per fellowship round.

Please note that we do not provide:

- grants for very basic research with little likelihood of clinical impact within the short to medium term
- grants on social research, family relationships or socioeconomic research
- grants towards service provision or audit studies
- grants for research into complementary / alternative medicine
- grants purely for higher education courses, although Research Training Fellows are strongly encouraged to independently register for a PhD
- course fees for degrees or subsistence costs
- grants on how best to train clinical staff
- grants for medical or dental electives
- grants for work undertaken outside the UK
- any indirect costs such as administrative or other overheads imposed by the University or other Institution
- costs associated with advertising and recruitment of staff and visa costs
- apprenticeship levy
- 'top up' funding for work already supported by other funding bodies
- costs to attend conferences (Action Medical Research grantholders may apply separately as the need arises during the grant)
- general appeals from other charities. Applications would normally come directly from research teams and projects need to be passed through our scientific peer review system
- applicants based in core funded units can apply but need to demonstrate added value

Information required

Co-funded awards: After reviewing the remit for co-funders indicate if your fellowship is in remit for consideration for co-funding by Duchenne UK and/or Muscular Dystrophy UK as well as Action only. Tick all that apply.

Project name: It should be clear what your fellowship is focused on from the name: do not include any confidential information.

Length of project: Fellowships should be 24-36 months in duration. Action does not fund one-year fellowships. The final decision on applications will be in February 2026 with awards made in March 2026 with the earliest start date of April 2026. Awards should ideally start within six months of award but definitely within one year.

HRCS and Keywords: The Health Research Classification System (HRCS) is a system for classifying biomedical and health research across all areas of health and disease. Applicants should choose the categories and keywords that best represent their research. More information on HRCS can be found here [Home - HRCS Online](#) and the guidance document is available here [HRCS Main Handbook Document.pdf](#). A full list of the Health categories and Research Activity codes is provided in the [Annexes HCRS codes](#). We have included all the HRCS codes, note some codes may not be in the remit of this call.

Age groups: Select as many age groups as your research covers, this may be a subset of the age group the condition affects. **Age groups based on** [Age - NHS digital service manual](#).

Non-confidential scientific abstract of proposed investigation: Provide a non-confidential technical summary of the project. This may also be used to determine if a third party has a conflict of interest in relation to the application. State the aims of the work and the methods to be adopted. Maximum 300 words.

Remit and clinical relevance: Briefly describe how this project fits the remit of Action Medical Research and any selected co-funder including the background to the project, the clinical relevance of the project and give an approximate time frame for clinical application. Ensure you review the remit for Action, any selected co-funder and this fellowship scheme. Clearly explain the specific paediatric need rather than a health problem affecting all age groups. Maximum 300 words.

Career plans: Outline your current and short-term career plans and goals, briefly describe the training in research methods which you will receive during the fellowship and how it will support your career plans to become a research leader in child health. There should be a demonstrable interest and commitment to a career in paediatric medicine and research. Maximum 300 words.

Research plan: Outline your proposed research plan. You should describe your aims and objectives and hypothesis to be tested and the methods of research to be used and expected outputs. The study design should be described in sufficient detail for our advisors to understand what is proposed and if applicable, that the study is sufficiently powered. Maximum 600 words.

Clinical study/trial: If the project includes a clinical study or trial, provide brief details of the input you have received Research Delivery Network (RDN) Clinical Studies Group to help with the design of this study. The RDN can work with you to help you set up and deliver your study efficiently. Their support includes:

- tools and experts to help define the activities required to deliver your research and understand who is responsible for the costs (Attributing the costs of health and social care Research and Development - AcoRD)
- guidance to ensure your research is inclusive and participant-friendly
- help to identify suitable locations for your research
- access to research registries and other digital tools for recruitment
- information on data service providers to help you find, recruit and follow-up participants
- determining if your study is eligible for inclusion on the Research Delivery Network Portfolio. Included studies can access the following additional support:
 - help to identify study participants
 - provision of NHS Service Support Costs and Excess Treatment Costs
 - tools to support sponsors and their delegates assess study progress
 - support for sponsors and delegates with individual study delivery and performance upon request

Patient/public involvement: Action encourages researchers to engage with the public as this has benefits for the research process. Examples of involvement of patients or members of the public in the research process include, choice of research topics, advising on the project design or in carrying out the research or you might consider involving a Young People's Advisory Group. This is a different process to carrying out research on patients or disseminating findings. It

involves working with patients or the public rather than simply doing research to, about or for them. See [Children | NIHR](#) or <https://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/wp-content/uploads/Children-and-clinical-research.pdf> Maximum 70 words.

Higher degree: Applicants (other than engineers) are strongly encouraged to independently register for a higher degree such as a PhD. Action does not cover higher education fees.

Finance and Resources Page

These fellowship awards are not studentships and we cover a salary rather than a stipend and do not cover higher education fees. The upper limit for funding is **£300,000**. It is anticipated that **up to three** fellowships will be funded through this call. Please note that competition for these awards is intense.

Eligible costs

- Fellowship funding can be used to cover the **direct** costs of the research including the fellow's salary and research consumables up to a maximum of £300,000.
- Equipment costs are **not** provided as part of this award. The host laboratory or unit should have the equipment and facilities required for the proposed research and must be available to the candidate.

Salary costs

- Only the fellow's salary can be included. **Do not** include salary (or contribution to the salary) of the supervisor.
- Use salary scales known at the time of application and include an additional sum to cover estimates of future nationally agreed pay awards to cover cost of living increases only.
- Include employer's costs, pension and National Insurance, and London weighting where appropriate.
- **Do not include** apprenticeship levy, visa costs, costs associated with advertising and recruitment of staff or course fees for degrees.

Consumable costs

- Research consumables essential for carrying out the work can be included.
- Access charges for specialised equipment can be included but **not** depreciation or maintenance costs.
- **Do not** include VAT on consumables.
- **Do not include** costs for higher degree fees, costs of ethical approval or Home Office licence fees or training costs associated with licences.

Travel, patient and public involvement and publication costs

The following may be included in the consumable costs if justified by the project.

- Costs of travel for researchers (excluding subsistence) provided they form a necessary and integral part of the research/training proposed.
- **Do not** include an allowance for attendance at meetings and conferences (fellows may apply separately as the need arises during the grant).
- Patient and public involvement (PPI) costs can be applied for up to a maximum of £1,000 per grant. This is in addition to any patient costs (e.g. patient recruitment costs) required to deliver the project.
- Publication costs are limited to £3,000 per grant.

Information required

Provide in whole GBP the:

- estimated total requested from Action and co-funders, up to the maximum of £300,000
- total salary cost of the fellow
- total amount of consumable costs requested

For help and advice on costings please contact your institution's research office. Please note Action does not normally consider supplementary grants.

Previous Applications and Awards Page

Please ensure you have provided all the requested information about previous applications and grants from Action and any co-funder selected. Ensure you consult with your supervisors on previous applications they have made.

Application Process

1. Outline applications must meet the guidelines as outlined in the call and guidance. Ensure that you have thoroughly read the scope and exclusions. Late applications will not be considered. Ensure you are aware of and comply with any internal institutional deadlines that may be in place. Your host organisation will also be able to provide advice and support on completing your application.
2. Once you have completed all the required elements of the application the **Submit** button will be visible on the **Summary** page. When you have successfully submitted your application you will see the message below and your application will show as **Under assessment** in **My applications**. You should also receive an email notification that the application has been submitted. You can download a pdf version of the application; there is an option to include the CV.

Your application has been successfully submitted.

Thank you for submitting your Outline application. We will be in touch again, once we have reviewed your submission.

3. After the deadline outline proposals will be subject to internal checks at Action to ensure fit to remit of the call. Applicants will be notified if their proposal has been rejected at this stage.
4. Outlines will be reviewed by our Scientific Advisory Panel and those that best match the aim of the fellowship and Action's and, where applicable, co-funders' remit will be invited to submit a full application.
5. Applicants selected to submit a full proposal will be informed in early September and will be able to access the full application form and application guidance on the GMS. There will be a limit to the number of full applications that we can invite. Where the application is considered peripheral to our aims or in cases where demand on our funds is high, we will inform you of our decision not to request a full application.
6. Full applications will be externally peer reviewed and shortlisted by our Scientific Advisory Panel. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview in February 2027. The final selection will be made on the advice of the interviewing panel drawn from the relevant scientific and medical advisers.

In the event of this funding opportunity being substantially oversubscribed, Action reserves the right to modify or extend this assessment process.

Assessment criteria

Proposals submitted to this funding opportunity will be considered using the following criteria.

Suitability of the applicant for the fellowship:

- Track record and achievements to date.
- Expertise and skill set.
- Current research standing.
- Research outputs.
- Does the applicant have adequate research experience to undertake this work?
- Is the applicant at the appropriate career stage for this fellowship?
- Has the applicant played a significant role in the design of the project?

Potential for the future:

- Does their experience to date and career goals indicate the applicant is committed to a career in research/academic medicine in areas relevant Action's (and any co-funder's) remit?
- Is there evidence of leadership potential?

The value of the proposed training:

- Will the fellowship support their long term scientific, clinical and career goals?
- Will there be opportunities for training and career development and development of leadership potential?

The suitability of the host research centre and research group:

- Scientific impact in the field.
- Level of commitment from supervisors and host institution.

The importance of the problem which this work seeks to overcome:

- Clinical relevance.
- Is it close to clinical application?
- The likelihood of scientific and/or medical advances in the short and long term relevant to relieving disease/disability burden and/or improving quality of life of children and fit to co-funder remit where applicable.

The scientific merits of the project:

- Strength of medical or scientific case including summary of previous research work that has been conducted in this area.
- Level of innovation and whether this is likely to lead to significant new understanding.
- Are the aims and objectives understandable and unambiguous, hypotheses are clearly defined.

The feasibility of the project:

- Is the plan ambitious but realistic for the time and skill level?
- Has a clearly written and transparent methodology been provided?
- Has preliminary data been provided?
- Has the applicant clearly set out and justified the following (these will be considered in detail at the full application stage):
 - Measures for avoidance of bias (e.g. blinding, randomisation)
 - Number of experimental and control groups and sample size per group
 - Is it clear how the number of study subjects required for the project will be recruited?
 - How the sample size was calculated, showing power calculations and including justification of effect size
 - Overview of the planned statistical analyses in relation to the primary outcomes to be assessed
 - Frequency of measurements/interventions to be used
 - Circumstances in which power calculations are not appropriate to determine sample size
- Have diversity and inclusion been considered in the study population? If not, is there a clear justification?
- Has the applicant considered any risks or difficulties associated with the project and has a risk mitigation plan?
- Is the plan to involve patients or members of the public appropriate to the planned research (more involvement being expected where the research is nearer to clinical application)?
- Is the support fully justified? Are there sufficient resources in place to support the fellowship?
- If the application involves the use of animals or animal tissue, is this (and the species proposed) justified in terms of the likely outcomes of the research and conforms to guidelines?
- Is the proposed research ethically acceptable?
- Are there any ethical issues that need separate consideration?

Success rates for this scheme

We received 29 outline applications for the 2026 RTF scheme, 9 were invited to submit a full application. Two awards were made following the interviews.

We received 33 outline applications for the 2025 RTF scheme, 13 were invited to submit a full application. Three awards were made following interviews.

We received 22 outline applications for the 2024 RTF scheme, 14 were invited to submit a full application. Three awards were made following interviews.

Award conditions and reporting requirements

Grants are awarded under the terms of Action's grant agreement.

Fellowships must commence within one year of the award.

If you are successful in securing funding, you will need to provide yearly reports endorsed by your supervisor. Research Training Fellows are treated as all grantholders within the Charity and are expected to speak on their work at fundraising events or scientific meetings organised by Action or fellowship co-funder if required.

Key dates

Applications open: 14 April 2026

Outline application deadline: 7 July 2026 5pm

Full applications invited: Early September 2026

Full application deadline: 13 October 2026 5pm

Interviews: w/c 8 February 2027

Awards: March 2027

Earliest start date: April 2027

Contact details

For help and advice on costings and writing your proposal please contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

Questions regarding the grant round should be directed to Action Medical Research by contacting applications@action.org.uk . Phone: 01403 210406 and press 5 for Research Office hours: Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm

Annexes - HCRS codes

Health categories - page 12

Research Activity codes – page 13

Health Categories

Category	Includes
Blood	Haematological diseases, anaemia, clotting (including thromboses and venous embolisms) and normal development and function of platelets and erythrocytes
Cancer and neoplasms	All types of neoplasms, including benign - malignant cancers (includes leukaemia)
Cardiovascular	Coronary heart disease, diseases of the vasculature and circulation including the lymphatic system, and normal development and function of the cardiovascular system
Congenital Disorders	Physical abnormalities and syndromes that are not associated with a single type of disease or condition including Down's syndrome and cystic fibrosis
Ear	Deafness and normal ear development and function
Eye	Diseases of the eye and normal eye development and function
Infection	Diseases caused by pathogens, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, sexually transmitted infections and studies of infection and infectious agents
Inflammatory and Immune System	Rheumatoid arthritis, connective tissue diseases, autoimmune diseases, allergies and normal development and function of the immune system
Injuries and Accidents	Fractures, poisoning and burns
Mental Health	Depression, schizophrenia, psychosis and personality disorders, addiction, suicide, anxiety, eating disorders, learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders and studies of normal psychology, cognitive function and behaviour
Metabolic and Endocrine	Metabolic disorders (inc Diabetes) and normal development and function. Includes all research on pineal, thyroid, parathyroid, pituitary and adrenal glands.
Musculoskeletal	Osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, muscular and skeletal disorders and normal musculoskeletal and cartilage development and function
Neurological	Dementias, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, Parkinson's disease, neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and studies of the normal brain and nervous system
Oral and Gastrointestinal	Inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, diseases of the mouth, teeth, oesophagus, digestive system including liver and colon, and normal oral and gastrointestinal development and function
Renal and Urogenital	Kidney disease, pelvic inflammatory disease, renal and genital disorders, and normal development and function of male and female renal and urogenital system
Reproductive Health and Childbirth	Fertility, contraception, abortion, <i>in vitro</i> fertilisation, pregnancy, mammary gland development, menstruation and menopause, breast feeding, antenatal care, childbirth and complications of newborns
Respiratory	Asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, respiratory diseases and normal development and function of the respiratory system
Skin	Dermatological conditions and normal skin development and function
Stroke	Includes both ischaemic (blood clots) and haemorrhagic (cerebral haemorrhage) strokes
Generic Health Relevance	Research applicable to all diseases and conditions or to general health and well-being of individuals. Public health research, epidemiology and health services research that is not focused on specific conditions. Underpinning biological, psychosocial, economic or methodological studies that are not specific to individual diseases or conditions
Disputed Aetiology and Other	Conditions of unknown or disputed aetiology (such as chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis), or research that is not of generic health relevance and not applicable to the top 19 specific health categories listed above

Overview of the Research Activity Codes

1	Underpinning Research
1.1	Normal biological development and functioning
1.2	Psychological and socioeconomic processes
1.3	Chemical and physical sciences
1.4	Methodologies and measurements
1.5	Resources and infrastructure (underpinning)
2	Aetiology
2.1	Biological and endogenous factors
2.2	Factors relating to physical environment
2.3	Psychological, social and economic factors
2.4	Surveillance and distribution
2.5	Research design and methodologies (aetiology)
2.6	Resources and infrastructure (aetiology)
3	Prevention of Disease and Conditions, and Promotion of Well-Being
3.1	Primary prevention interventions to modify behaviours or promote well-being
3.2	Interventions to alter physical and biological environmental risks
3.3	Nutrition and chemoprevention
3.4	Vaccines
3.5	Resources and infrastructure (prevention)
4	Detection, Screening and Diagnosis
4.1	Discovery and preclinical testing of markers and technologies
4.2	Evaluation of markers and technologies
4.3	Influences and impact
4.4	Population screening
4.5	Resources and infrastructure (detection)
5	Development of Treatments and Therapeutic Interventions
5.1	Pharmaceuticals
5.2	Cellular and gene therapies
5.3	Medical devices
5.4	Surgery
5.5	Radiotherapy and other non-invasive therapies
5.6	Psychological and behavioural
5.7	Physical
5.8	Complementary
5.9	Resources and infrastructure (development of treatments)
6	Evaluation of Treatments and Therapeutic Interventions
6.1	Pharmaceuticals
6.2	Cellular and gene therapies
6.3	Medical devices
6.4	Surgery
6.5	Radiotherapy and other non-invasive therapies
6.6	Psychological and behavioural
6.7	Physical
6.8	Complementary
6.9	Resources and infrastructure (evaluation of treatments)
7	Management of Diseases and Conditions
7.1	Individual care needs
7.2	End of life care
7.3	Management and decision making
7.4	Resources and infrastructure (disease management)
8	Health and Social Care Services Research
8.1	Organisation and delivery of services
8.2	Health and welfare economics
8.3	Policy, ethics and research governance
8.4	Research design and methodologies
8.5	Resources and infrastructure (health services)