

Methodology Theme

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Methodology



Theme Aims

- Study the suitability of methods used in supportive and palliative care research.
- Provide evidence that contributes to improving the research process and outcome.

Theme Scope

Qualitative

Quantitative

Narratives

Trials

Interviews

Surveys

**Focus
groups**

**Systematic
reviews**

Key Areas

- Recruitment and retention of research participants
- Selection or development of appropriate outcome measures
- Participant understanding of research design or terminology
- Involvement of service users
- Use of innovative methods or approaches

MRC

Medical
Research
Council

NHS

*National Institute for
Health Research*

Methodology Research Programme (MRP)

To strengthen the evidence base for health research, the MRP will oversee and implement the evolving MRC/NIHR strategy for high quality methodological research.

NICE/MRC Methodology scoping study: Identifying NICE's methodological research needs and priorities

Web feedback and opportunity to comment

Introduction

As part of the co-coordinated strategy for health research under OSCHR, MRC is the lead organisation for methodology research. NICE is an important public stakeholder in this research area and improving methods for undertaking health technology assessments, appraisals and evidence synthesis was also highlighted as an area for further research in the 2007 Cooksey review http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr06_cooksey_final_report_636.pdf

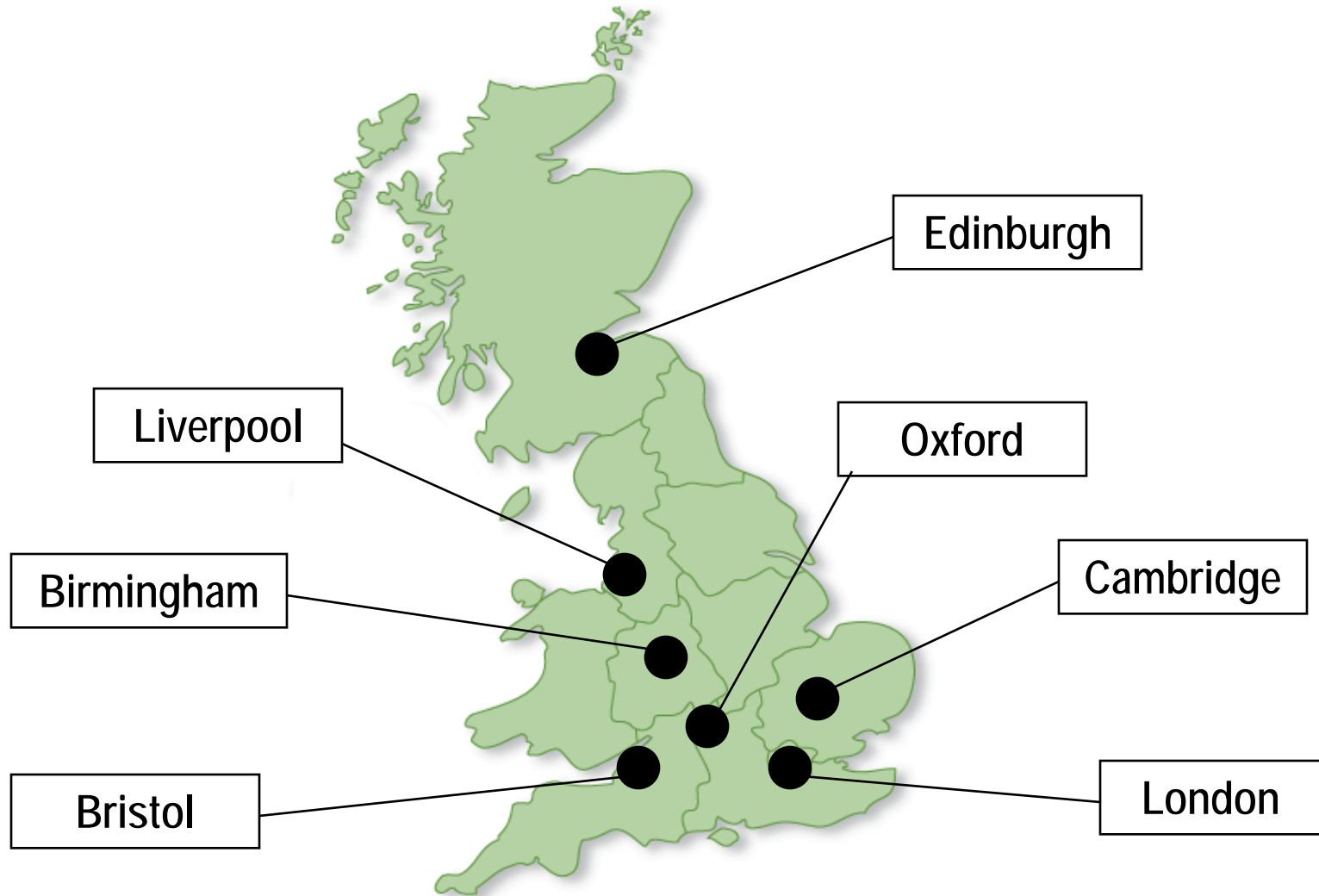
To help identify priority methodology research topics to support NICE's decision making, MRC commissioned a group of researchers at the Universities of York (Professor Mark Sculpher and Laura Bojke) and Sheffield (Dr Louise Longworth and Jonathan Tosh) in September 2008 to undertake a short scoping project. As part of the project the group has generated a list of possible future research topics. These topics were identified via consultation with stakeholders, literature review and a workshop involving people at NICE, the MRC and other representatives from academia and industry.

The final stage of this project is to rank the topics by level of importance. This web-based feedback offers the wider research community, as well as those who have already contributed to the scoping project, the opportunity to participate in this project by rating the level of importance of each topic.

Following this feedback survey, responses will be collated and the research team will provide a final project report which will then be considered by the MRC/NIHR Methodology Research Programme Panel, which oversees the MRC-led methodology work stream.

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Hubs for Trials Methodology Research (HTMR) Network



HTMR Objectives

- Undertake high quality research relating to the design, conduct or analysis of clinical trial studies.
 - Develop critical mass in trials methodology research.
 - Maintain effective links with regional and national clinical trials units.
 - Provide support to the local/wider clinical trials research community on methodological issues.
 - Establish a training programme in methodological research.

MRP Grant Support

- Investigator-led research (Feb, Jun, Oct)
- Needs-led research

MRP Remit

- Methods for the design & analysis of PRIMARY descriptive and evaluative studies.
- Methods for the design & analysis of SECONDARY studies involving reviews & evidence synthesis.
- Design, process & analysis of clinical trials including assessing risk, efficacy, safety etc.
- Methodologies in applied disciplines.
- Assessment & validation of patient-reported measures.

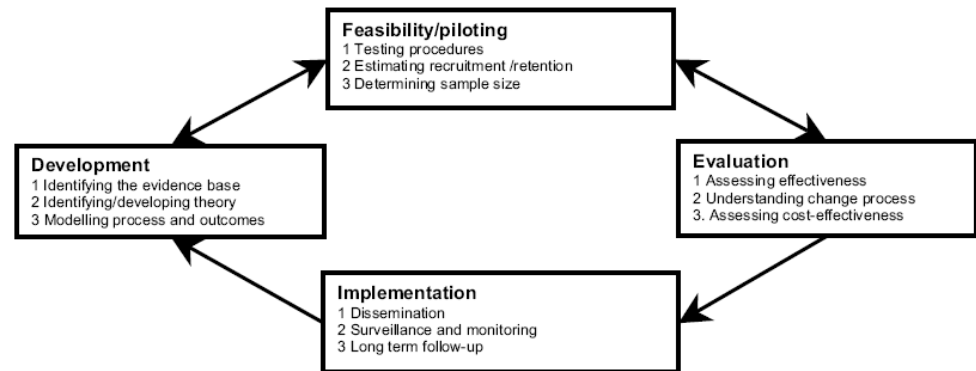
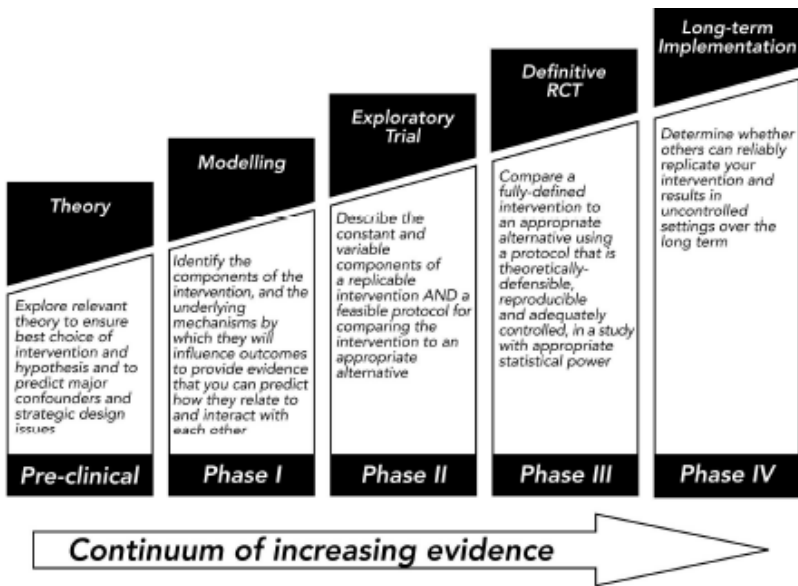
MRP Funded Project

Methods for evaluating service delivery models
for end of life care: development of best
practice guidance.

Higginson I, Fayers P, Grande G, Harding R, Hotopf M,
Lewis P, McCrone P, Morgan M, Murray S, Todd C

MRC Framework 2001

MRC Guidance 2007





Protocol Development Meeting

RECRUITMENT

April 2nd 2009

University of Manchester



State of the Science Meeting

PROGNOSTICATION

October 15th 2009

Chancellors Centre - Manchester

SPEAKERS

Paul Glare

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York

Patrick Stone

St George's Hospital Medical School, London



IDEAS FOR FUTURE TOPICS

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