

Reviewer Guidelines – NIHR Evidence

We expect this reviewing task to take you between 20 and 30 minutes, although this might vary. We will send you a published paper and ask you to read the abstract. You are welcome to read the full paper but we recognise that many good reviews are based on the abstract alone. We will ask you a few questions on the importance of the paper and whether you think it will make a difference.

Broadly, we would like your opinion on:

- If and how the evidence is likely to change practice
- If you think the evidence is already known or understood by people who need to know about the research
- Whether the evidence is topical

We don't need you to restate the findings of the research that are set out in the abstract.

The questions on the form are worth keeping in mind when you are reading the paper. They are:

1. Which groups of professionals, patients or the public need to know about this research?
2. What impact do you think this paper will have? (e.g. on health or social care guidelines, public policy, or for healthcare professionals, public, or commissioners)
3. What measures might help with the implementation of the research findings?
4. How confident are you that the findings are robust?
5. How is this research relevant to you in your personal or professional capacity?

Once you have read the paper and completed the review form, please click 'Submit'. Your feedback and comments will then be saved and taken into account by the Editorial Board who will decide which papers to take forward as Alerts. You can see the Alerts as they are published each week on the [NIHR Evidence website](#).

Review examples

1. Which groups of professionals, patients or the public need to know about this research?

Example 1 – “Chest physicians should already be aware that frailty predicts poor outcomes. I think this is also quite clear to patient groups and carers. Physiotherapists and nurses could benefit by considering using the abbreviated tests in their clinical assessment of risk.”

Example 2 – “Paramedics, physiotherapists, GP Practice, care home nurses and care workers. Patient groups for those aged 50+ yrs to raise awareness and provide the necessary training. Third sector organisations such as Age UK or Walking for Health.”

2. What impact do you think this paper will have? (e.g. on health or social care guidelines, public policy, or for healthcare professionals, public, or commissioners)

Example 1 – “This publication offers evidence based recommendations for policy development and planning for pandemics. It also offers guidelines on how best to transform palliative care services so they are best able to respond to COVID-19. Current guidelines are typically not evidence based so this offers important ways forward.”

Example 2 – “The impact of this paper may be to make home dialysis more widely available (although it is not suitable or possible for every person). Hospital dialysis takes up so much of a person's time, that it leaves very little time for "real" life. Who could deny them the two day break or reinforce the burden rigidly? But the patient themselves should understand the risks and trade-offs they are making.”

3. What measures might help with the implementation of the research findings?

Example 1 – “The review and recommendations are likely to inform guidelines and palliative care integration. They should be urgently highlighted to NHS Trusts and to hospice Boards. I suggest using organisations like Hospice UK and Marie Curie Cancer Care to assist with the implementation.”

Example 2 – “Involvement and engagement of patients and carers, inviting their input in preparation of public-facing communication materials, with a focus on important messages being presented in easily understood plain language.”

4. How confident are you that the findings are robust?

Example 1 – “The data source is robust, and the methods look appropriate and well considered. The authors' interpretation is fair and acknowledges the limitations of study design and findings.”

Example 2 – “The researchers have gained responses from a large and diverse range of service users. There is, however, a need for further research regarding the importance of prognosis.”

5. How is this research relevant to you in your personal or professional capacity?

Example 1 – “I spend much of my working week discussing the pros and cons of the main treatment options for this condition with patients. At the clinic, we see about 1000 new cases every year and we advise them on evidence based treatment. This research is very useful and provides important data to help patients make their decisions about treatment. I will be adding a reference to it on the clinic's website.”

Example 2 – “I have a large number of friends and family members with chronic health conditions who could benefit from more research similar to this. We are always interested in methods, either technological or otherwise that could help with daily living and the management of our chronic conditions. The research also helps with identifying themes and commonalities which will guide researchers for future work and ultimately help support those of us living with these health conditions.”