

Collaboration Request Guidance

Please review the guidance in this document before submitting a collaboration request to the NIHR HealthTech Research Centre (HRC) in Paediatrics and Child Health.

1. Collaboration requests can include:
 - i. Unmet needs i.e. thing which make day-to-day living difficult for children and young people with long-term health conditions or a problem in a healthcare setting that does not currently have a solution. You do not need to have a solution for the unmet need.
 - ii. Innovations in response to unmet needs. We support technology development at all stages of the innovation pipeline, but the NIHR HRC remit has a specific focus on supporting the commercialisation and adoption of health technology in the NHS.
2. Unmet needs and innovations must relate to children and young people with long-term health conditions, including their physical health and/or mental health and wellbeing. Your proposal may relate to carers and/or family members of young people with long-term conditions.
3. Unmet needs and innovations must fit within one or more of our core or cross-cutting themes:
 - Early Life
 - Long-Term Conditions in Childhood
 - Transition
 - Mind & Body Integration (cross-cutting)
 - Child Health Artificial Intelligence Network (CHAIN) (cross-cutting)

OUR THEMES

4. If your unmet need or innovation falls outside of our themes, we may be able to provide support through the TITCH Network. Please indicate this when submitting your collaboration request. Please note that we are usually unable to provide the same level of support for unmet needs and innovations that do not fit within one of our themes.

TITCH NETWORK

5. If your unmet need or innovation fits within one of our themes, we can provide the following support:

- Advice from expert clinicians
- Knowledge centre (online learning hub to equip health innovators seeking to develop technologies for paediatrics and child health)
- Patient and public involvement and engagement
- Access to NHS and NIHR infrastructure
- Stakeholder collaborations
- Support for early career researchers
- Identification and validation of unmet needs
- Testing and clinical trials support
- Guidance and support with funding applications
- Project management
- Advice on regulations and intellectual property
- Access to the TITCH Network

SUPPORT

6. We expect unmet needs to be validated with children, young people, families, and NHS healthcare professionals across multiple NHS settings. We can work with you to validate unmet needs, but funding for our time and any required resources will need to be secured. We can collaborate with you to submit grant applications from relevant funding bodies.

7. We expect innovations to have considerable input from children, young people, families, and NHS healthcare professionals. We will only support innovations where this input can be demonstrated or where collaborators are willing to work closely with these groups and modify their ideas and innovations accordingly. We can work with you to provide input from these groups at all stages of technology development.

8. We are required to raise funds for our involvement with collaborative projects. We can therefore only support grant applications if we are a named collaborator, are actively involved in the project, and have our time costed for.

9. All medical devices need to conform to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) standards.

MHRA GUIDANCE

Collaboration Request Review Process

Please review the following information about the NIHR HRC in Paediatrics and Child Health collaboration request review process and what to expect following submission.

1. Submitted collaboration requests will be discussed by the NIHR HRC in Paediatrics and Child Health team to determine whether we are able to support the request in principle and the appropriate next steps. Please make sure your request is clear and detailed as we use the information in the form to determine whether we are able to support your request. We will arrange a phone or video call with you if we need further clarity before deciding whether your innovation is within our remit.
2. If your unmet need or innovation is within our remit, we will send your collaboration request to the relevant Theme Lead(s) to gain their expert clinical opinion.
3. If the Theme Lead(s) is interested in supporting the unmet need or innovation and/or agrees that the unmet need or innovation is worth supporting, we will arrange a call or meeting with you and the relevant stakeholders to discuss further collaboration.
4. We can support unmet needs and innovations without the direct involvement of our Theme Leads where appropriate.
5. If your unmet need or innovation is not within our remit, we may be able to provide support through the TITCH Network.
6. In some circumstances, one of our partner organisations may be better equipped to progress the unmet need or innovation. If NIHR HRC in Paediatrics and Child Health cannot help or support, we will, where possible, signpost to other infrastructure that can.
7. Due to the nature of NIHR HRC in Paediatrics and Child Health, no promise is made that an outcome can be achieved.
8. We aim to respond to all collaboration requests within four to six weeks.
9. Please refer to our support page for more details on the support we can offer.

SUPPORT