



**Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India**

**Expression of Interest
for
Establishing Technical Resource Centers
2024**

Centre for Evidence for Guidelines

Background:

1. A novel process has been instituted within the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to collaboratively formulate a comprehensive set of evidence-based guidelines for the country. This initiative will involve the concerted efforts of the Department of Health & Family Welfare (DoHFW), the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and the Department of Health Research (DHR) using a rigorous and robust scientific process, ensuring the integration of the latest evidence.
2. The process of generating such evidence will entail the compilation of systematic reviews and meta-analyses from the existing literature, focusing on well-defined review questions. The evidence derived from these systematic reviews and meta-analyses will be systematically assessed for its strength utilizing the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation) Approach. This grading methodology will serve to evaluate the quality of evidence, which will subsequently inform the formulation of recommendations following the application of the Evidence to Decision (EtD) framework.
3. In light of this, expressions of interest (Eoi) are invited from researchers who are interested in conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Prospective applicants will be tasked to conduct systematic reviews/meta-analysis pertaining to the identified review questions (PICOs) and assessing the quality of evidence using GRADE tool.

Goal:

Establishing Technical Resource Centers to systematically synthesize and evaluate evidence, with the objective of developing and promoting evidence-based guidelines and enhancing the adoption of evidence-based practices in healthcare

Objectives:

- Conduct systematic reviews and meta-analyses to generate high-quality evidence for the development of clinical guidelines, utilizing the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation) approach.
- Organize training programs and workshops to disseminate best practices in evidence synthesis and the application of the GRADE methodology, supporting effective and rigorous guideline development.

Criteria for Establishment of Technical Resource Centres (TRCs)

Technical Resource Centers must be fully equipped with the necessary resources and expertise, demonstrating a strong alignment with the overarching goals of promoting evidence-based healthcare. TRCs should be well-versed in conducting systematic reviews within specified timeframes and applying the GRADE methodology. They should possess the capacity to generate, evaluate, and disseminate high-quality evidence, thereby contributing significantly to the development of evidence-based guidelines within the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Criteria for Evaluation:

a) Expertise in Evidence Synthesis:

- Proven proficiency in conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses.
- A team of experts experienced in evidence synthesis methodologies, with the ability to critically appraise and grade the quality of evidence using the GRADE methodology.

b) Infrastructure and Resources:

- Sufficient physical infrastructure and resources to support the conduct of systematic reviews, including access to relevant databases, software, and advanced technological tools.
- Availability of a well-equipped, collaborative workspace that supports effective teamwork among researchers and experts.

c) Publications:

- A strong track record of publishing high-quality systematic reviews and meta-analyses in peer-reviewed journals.

d) Collaboration and networking:

- A history of successful collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including government health agencies, academic institutions, and other healthcare organizations.
- Active participation in national and international networks related to evidence synthesis and healthcare guidelines

e) Training and educational Initiatives:

- Prior experience in organizing and conducting training sessions and workshops on evidence synthesis methodologies.
- Commitment to ongoing education and skill development for healthcare professionals in the region.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The primary applicant must demonstrate substantial experience in conducting systematic reviews, with **at least two published systematic reviews** as the **first or corresponding author** in indexed journals.
2. Primary applicant should have organized/conducted a **minimum of two workshops** on systematic reviews and/or GRADE methodology, showcasing their expertise in both evidence synthesis and the application of GRADE.

Application Process:

- Interested Researchers/ faculty/scientists having regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges with required capability, experience and resources (preferably database access) to undertake the assignment may submit their application through [google link](#)
- The application received will go through a review process by an expert committee constituted by competent authority
- The selected participants will be notified of their selection via email and through the DHR website in September 2024

Funding: Financial Support up to Rs. 20 Lacs per year will be provided per Technical Resource Centre (Human resource (Research associate-III & Research assistant) Equipment (one desktop), training/travel and software for data management/Database access, conducting internal meetings, stationary, Honorarium and publication charges etc).

Duration of the funding for TRCs:

The initial term is set for three years, subject to performance reviews, and renewable every year.

Terms and Conditions

- An annual report, along with a statement of expenditure and utilization certificate in the prescribed format, is to be submitted for review and approval. The budget for the subsequent year will be contingent upon the review and approval of the annual report.
- Regular monitoring visits will be conducted, with corrective actions implemented as needed
- Training programs are to be conducted at least twice a year, and professional development plans are to be updated annually.
- Manuscripts to be submitted within three months of completion of evidence tables

Deliverables:

The Technical Resource Centers established for evidence synthesis in the development of evidence-based guidelines should ensure clarity and accountability; specific deliverables with stringent deadlines should be established:

- Detailed technical protocol for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses outlining the step-by-step procedures for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses. This document should provide a comprehensive guide for the entire process, from formulating research questions to synthesizing and interpreting the results.
- Provide grading of the evidence profiles, summarizing the key findings of the systematic reviews. Include ratings of the certainty of evidence for each outcome, incorporating GRADE's four levels: high, moderate, low, or very low.

- Completion of a specified number of systematic reviews and meta-analyses annually as per the request of the secretariat
- Conducting training sessions and workshops on evidence synthesis methodologies
- Regular publication of synthesized evidence in reputable peer-reviewed journals
- Annual progress reports and a comprehensive report are to be submitted
- Presentation of the review findings at the expert group meeting (and participation in any pre-meetings or online webinars).

Link to submit online applications: <https://forms.gle/SpQjCUhYDRpQZXjP8>

For any queries related to the EoI please contact

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Tentative Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	30-August-2024
Last date for submission of proposal	15-September-2024 (17:00hrs)
Review and selection	20- September-2024