

**Dementia Themed Call: Specification Document
Applied Health Research on Dementia**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) will issue a call for research on dementia in March 2011. The call will extend across the translational pathway, covering the fields of cause, cure and care, including prevention. This early advance notice of the intention to call will allow adequate time for the dementia research community to prepare high quality applications. Seven of the NIHR managed research programmes will be participating.

Dementia is defined as a chronic or persistent disorder of the mental processes caused by brain disease or injury and marked by memory disorders, personality changes, and impaired reasoning. Dementias resulting from a range of known and unknown aetiologies will be considered including but not limited to: Alzheimer's disease, Lewy body dementia, vascular disease and trauma.

This call supports the NIHR response to '*Living well with Dementia – A National Dementia Strategy*', published in February 2009. It also supports the work of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Dementia Research (MAGDR) on ways to improve the volume and impact of dementia research. Reports from the MAGDR subgroups should be available in late March and applicants will need to consider their recommendations, carefully, particularly in respect of topic priorities and better ways of working.

Research proposals should relate to dementia and must be within the remit of one of the seven participating programmes. Applications which support multi-disciplinary and cross-professional collaborations are particularly encouraged. In addition:

- applications that may lead to improvement in the prevention, diagnosis, assessment, treatment, management or care of people with dementia are welcomed;
- research should seek to demonstrate benefits to the health and/or well being of individuals with dementia or their carers and/or improvements in the organisation or delivery of care;
- proposals solely to explore the aetiology or pathophysiology of dementias are out of remit.

The participating programmes are:

- Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME)
- Health Services Research (HSR)
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
- Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)
- Public Health Research (PHR)
- Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)
- Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO)

For further information on the participating programmes please go to:
www.nihr.ac.uk/research/Pages/Dementia.aspx

For further information on the MAGDR please go to:
www.dementia.dh.gov.uk/objectivesAndResources/Research/MAGDR/

Application forms will be available from March 2011. Completed forms must be submitted by 20 May 2011. Funding decisions will be made no later than the end of March 2012.