



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद  
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार  
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research  
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health  
and Family Welfare, Government of India

No: 5/4-4/MH-TG/2023-NCD-II

Date: 16/06/2023

## Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

### For ICMRs Multistate Implementation Research Study on Reduction of treatment gap of Mental Disorders

#### Overview

India is facing a large treatment gap for mental disorders, including substance use disorders. Many people do not receive the care they need due to various barriers, such as lack of awareness, stigma, and limited access to mental health services. In addition, even those who are in contact with healthcare providers may not receive interventions that are evidence-based.

The aim of this EOI is to identify researchers from across the country to join the team being constituted for ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on the Reduction of the treatment gap of Mental Disorders in the Country. The selected researchers shall be invited to join the research team and shall collaborate to develop a full research proposal and roll out the multisite research project under the guidance of ICMR, Hqrs. The process of development of protocol and research project implementation shall be reviewed by an independent Task Force Committee. The goal is to decrease the treatment gap for mental disorders by increasing access to evidence-based mental health services.

#### Objectives

- To encourage the implementation of evidence-based approaches for the reduction of the treatment gap of mental disorders in defined populations (block/district) in the country.
- Prioritize the development and evaluation of practical, scalable, and sustainable solutions focusing on the integration of local knowledge and expertise in the design and implementation of research projects.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, mental health professionals, and community-based organizations to address the reduction of the treatment gap of mental disorders in India.

ICMR invites EOIs proposals that address the below-mentioned research question

#### Priority Research Question

**How can the treatment gap of mental disorders, including substance use disorders, be reduced in defined populations (block/district) using necessary approaches to overcome specific barriers including digital technologies?**

## **Expected Outcomes**

The following outcomes are expected from the research project that shall be developed and implemented by the team under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs:

- Development of effective strategies for rolling out and scaling up evidence-based interventions to reduce the treatment gap of mental disorders in real-world settings.
- Increased access and better knowledge awareness of access to evidence-based mental health services in defined populations (block/district) in the country.
- Enhanced understanding of the factors that influence the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of mental health interventions in the country.
- Increased collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to facilitate the translation of research findings into policy-ready interventions developed through a defined process that are relevant to the Indian healthcare system.
- Strategies developed through the implementation research process to integrate the strengthening of health care systems and mental health interventions into national mental health programs in a feasible and scalable manner.

### **Target Population:**

Defined populations (block/district) across the country including the underserved; population groups and regions. A mix of urban and rural populations will be preferred. These shall include populations that are not seeking medical help for their mental health problems as well as those already in contact with health care systems.

### **Research design:**

A range of research designs, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, mixed methods design, and implementation science frameworks

## **Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted**

### **A. Rationale of proposed study including the choice of sites (states and districts) to be included where the implementation shall be carried out**

The proposal should clearly state the rationale for the study, the recommended sites( which are likely to be relatively more vulnerable due to reasons of geography (remoteness; climate change; disaster-proneness); socio-economic or cultural disadvantage; may be preferentially included. (states and districts) and the likelihood of utilization of the model by stakeholders in the future. The proposal can also provide evidence from previous research on the topic in the county or elsewhere, and describe any district or state-specific challenges related to implementation for the target group(s).

### **B. Implementation Strategy**

Provide a clear and detailed description of the intervention(s) to be implemented, including the target population, the intervention components, and the implementation strategies. You may include preparatory activities, mapping, a timeline, steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

### **C. Address feasibility and scalability**

Address the feasibility and scalability of the proposed intervention or policy, including the resources needed for implementation, the capacity of the implementing organization, and the potential for wider adoption and scale-up.

#### **D. Research Team**

Summarise and justify the composition of the research team, based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementing the project. Also, highlight the skill set and expertise the members shall bring to the research team that shall be constituted by the ICMR Hqrs for the development of final protocol and research project implementation.

#### **E. Established relationships with state and district health systems and other stakeholders**

Operational feasibility would be key for this implementation research study. Include the collaborations that have been established with the potential stakeholders and participants including state and district health systems, local communities, community leaders, and faith healers among others.

#### **Illustrative Budget outline (additional to the 2-page limit)**

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring contingency, data management, travel and equipment.

#### **One-page CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators (additional to the 2-page limit)**

Please provide a one-page CV of the PI and other key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- Academic and professional qualifications
- Current position and affiliation
- Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- Upto five most relevant previous publications
- Experience in undertaking projects on mental health from the public health perspective

#### **Review process:**

The EOI documents for the ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on the Reduction of the treatment gap of Mental Disorders will be evaluated and shortlisted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR team will screen the applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. The shortlisted teams will then collaborate to develop a detailed proposal, under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs, The proposal will be evaluated based on factors such as study design, feasibility, data management capabilities, prior experience, engagement with public health and potential for seamless integration. The feasibility and suitability of integration of the proposed methodology in the final proposal to be developed under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs shall also be considered while shortlisting the EOI.

#### **Who can submit the EOI?**

The EOI can be submitted through ONLINE MODE ONLY by scientists/ professionals who have regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition including a DSIR certificate should be available).

#### **Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI**

1. The EOI must address the specific research question that is mentioned in the call text.
2. Collaborative, multi-centre, interdisciplinary, innovative research initiatives from the applicant will be encouraged..
3. Descriptive studies, systematic reviews and secondary data analysis will not be considered
4. Should focus on outcomes that are translatable into policy.
5. Evaluation of the development of indigenous technologies and solutions relevant to the Indian context may be prioritized
6. Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should fill out the Google form at the below link and submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** as per the Format given above. Only shortlisted PI will be contacted

**Link-** <https://forms.gle/HZx4MTNpUyFp8JCK6>

### **Timeline**

Activities	Date
Release of Call	16- June-2023
Last date for submission of EOI	20- July -2023
Shortlisting of EOIs	20-August-2023
Proposal Development Workshop	20-September-2023
Submission of a full proposal	30-September- 2023

**For any queries related to the call, please contact**

**Dr Neha Dahiya, MD**

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कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research  
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health  
and Family Welfare, Government of India

**No: IST/MH/2023-NCD-II**

**Date: 13/06/2023**

## **Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

### **For ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on Integration of Screening and Treatment of mental disorders with NCDs**

#### **Overview**

In 2018, WHO included mental health disorders in the list of major NCDs. Further, there have been evidence of existing comorbidities between major physical NCDs (cancers, diabetes, CVDs) and mental health disorders. Furthermore, persons with mental disorders and substance use disorders are at an increased risk of NCDs. It has been observed that people with mental health disorders

Mental disorders including anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, psychotic disorders, and substance use disorders have a significant impact on the overall health and well-being of individuals. In India, the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is increasing. This has led to a double burden of disease. There is a need for integrated interventions that address both mental health and NCDs at all levels of healthcare delivery, especially at the primary care level. The aim of this EOI is to identify researchers from across the country to join the team being constituted for ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on the Integration of Screening and Treatment of mental disorders with NCDs. The selected researchers shall be invited to join the research team and shall collaborate to develop a full research proposal and roll out the multisite research project under the guidance of ICMR, Hqrs. The process of development of protocol and research project implementation shall be reviewed by an independent Task Force Committee. The goal is to offer integrated mental health care with an aim to improve mental health outcomes and reduce the burden due to mental disorders including substance use disorders and NCDs in India.

#### **Objectives**

- To encourage the implementation of evidence-based approaches for the integration of screening and treatment of mental disorders with NCDs at the primary care level in the country.
- Prioritize the development and evaluation of practical, scalable, and sustainable solutions focusing on the integration of local knowledge and expertise in the design and implementation of research projects.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships between government agencies (health and non-health sectors), non-governmental organizations, mental health professionals, and community-based /Faith-based organizations to address the integration of mental health and NCDs in the country.

## Priority Research Question

**How can we overcome the difficulties in integrating screening and treatment for mental disorders (anxiety, depression, psychosis and substance use disorders) with NCD care into all outpatients visit to health & wellness centre, primary health centres, CHCs and district hospitals?**

### Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected from the research project that shall be developed and implemented by the team under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs:

- Development of effective strategies for rolling out and scaling up evidence-based interventions for the integration of care for mental health and NCDs in public health-world settings.
- Improved access to integrated mental health and NCD services at all levels of care including the primary care level in the country.
- Enhanced understanding of the factors that influence the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of integrated mental health and NCD services in the country.
- Increased collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers and beneficiaries (patients and their families) to facilitate the translation of research findings into policy-ready interventions developed through a defined process that are relevant to the Indian healthcare system.
- Strategies developed through the implementation research process to create linkages between national programmes related to mental health and NCDs in a feasible and scalable manner.

### Target Population:

Public health care delivery systems at different levels of care, including the primary level of care.

### Research design:

A range of research designs, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, mixed methods design, and implementation science frameworks

### Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted(max 2 pages)

#### **A. Rationale of proposed study including the choice of sites (states and districts) to be included where the implementation shall be carried out**

The proposal should clearly state the rationale for the study, the recommended sites (states and districts) and the likelihood of utilization of the model by stakeholders in the future. A mix of rural and urban settings will be preferred. The proposal can also provide evidence from previous research on the topic in the county or elsewhere, and describe any district or state-specific challenges related to implementation for the target group(s).

#### **B. Implementation Strategy**

Provide a clear and detailed description of the intervention(s) to be implemented, including the target population, the intervention components, and the implementation strategies. You may include preparatory activities, mapping, a timeline (Gantt Chart), steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

### **C. Address feasibility and scalability**

Address the feasibility and scalability of the proposed intervention or policy, including the resources needed for implementation, the capacity of the implementing organization, and the potential for wider adoption and scale-up.

### **D. Research Team**

Summarise and justify the composition of the research team, based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementing the project. Also, highlight the skill set and expertise the members shall bring to the research team that shall be constituted by the ICMR Hqrs for the development of final protocol and research project implementation.

### **E. Established relationships with state and district health systems**

Operational feasibility would be key for this implementation research study. Include the collaborations that have been established with the potential stakeholders and participants including state and district health systems.

### **Illustrative Budget outline (additional to the 2-page limit)**

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring contingency, data management, travel and equipment.

### **One-page CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators (additional to the 2-page limit)**

Please provide a one-page CV of the PI and other key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- Academic and professional qualifications
- Current position and affiliation
- Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- Upto five most relevant previous publications

### **Review process:**

The EOI documents for the Multistate Implementation Research Project on the Integration of Screening and Treatment of mental disorders with NCDs will be evaluated and shortlisted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR team will screen the applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. The shortlisted teams will then collaborate to develop a detailed proposal, under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs, which then will be reviewed by an independent Task Force Committee. The proposal will be evaluated based on factors such as study design, feasibility, data management capabilities, prior experience, engagement with public health and potential for seamless integration. The feasibility and suitability of integration of the proposed methodology in the final proposal to be developed under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs shall also be considered while shortlisting the EOI.

### **Who can submit the EOI?**

The EOI can be submitted through ONLINE MODE ONLY by scientists/ professionals who have regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition including DSIR certificate should be available).

### **Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI**

1. The EOI must address the specific research question that is mentioned in the call text.

2. Collaborative, multi-centre, interdisciplinary, innovative research initiatives from the applicant will be encouraged.
3. Descriptive studies, systematic reviews and secondary data analysis will not be considered
4. Should focus on outcomes that are translatable into policy.
5. Evaluation of the development of indigenous technologies and solutions relevant to the Indian context may be prioritized
6. Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should fill out the Google form at the below link and submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** as per the Format given above. Only shortlisted PI will be contacted.

**Link-** <https://forms.gle/YcfraVdT2asXYdga8>

### **Timeline**

Activities	Date
Release of Call	13- June-2023
Last date for submission of EOI	15- July -2023
Shortlisting of EOIs	10-August-2023
Proposal Development Workshop	10-September-2023
Submission of a full proposal	25-September- 2023

**For any queries related to the call, please contact**

**Dr Neha Dahiya, MD**

Program Officer,

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कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research  
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health  
and Family Welfare, Government of India

No: 50/1/TF-CVD/2023-NCD-I

Date: 16/06/2023

## Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

### For ICMR's Implementation Research Study on Ambulatory Care for Non-Communicable Diseases in Public Health Care Systems in India

#### Overview

India's public primary health care system was built to cater to maternal and child health and infectious diseases. However, NCDs currently comprise the largest proportion of the disease burden in the health care system. Managing non-communicable diseases needs lifelong care support and a reliable information system to track and follow up with patients to monitor indicators and prevent complications. The National Programme for Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), earlier known as the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS), was established in 2010, aims at the management of NCDs through early diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up in the NCD clinics with a programmatic goal to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases through effective prevention and control of NCDs in public health care system. Under this ambit, a need exists to develop and test pragmatic strategies for implementing known and effective interventions to provide ambulatory care for non-communicable conditions.

One such example is the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI), built on the existing framework of NP-NCD since 2018, which is being implemented in 140+ districts of the country and has demonstrated reasonable success in registering and retaining patients with hypertension and controlling blood pressure. The IHCI was built on the World Health Organization (WHO)'s HEARTS strategies- simple drug and dose-specific protocols, uninterrupted availability of medications, patient-centered care, a team-based approach with task sharing, and a reliable information system. At this stage, it is crucial to expand the implementation strategies to ambulatory care for other non-communicable conditions. Therefore, this expression of interest is aimed at developing practical, scalable, and sustainable strategies that provide evidence-based effective management of non-communicable diseases in India's public healthcare systems under NP-NCD.

#### Priority Implementation Research Question

How to deliver effective non-communicable diseases (NCD) ambulatory care in public primary health care systems using a combination of strategies, including the use of available point-of-care testing for diagnosis and follow-up, capacity building of providers to reduce physician inertia, use of easy-to-use treatment algorithms, improved supply logistics of essential drugs and diagnostics and simplified data information systems?

**Interested research teams may submit the EOI with the following components.**

**A. NCD conditions and districts (< 1000 words)**

*a. NCD conditions*

The proposed study should address at least three major NCD conditions (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases) and their risk factors (hypertension, dyslipidemia, obesity), as well as secondary prevention. The proposal should focus on the ambulatory continuum of care (outpatient care) in the public health system, not acute/emergency care.

*b. Selection of states and districts*

The investigators may choose 1-2 districts for the implementation and provide justification for chosen districts. Please note that operational feasibility would be key for this implementation research study. Include the collaborations that have been established with the potential stakeholders and participants, including state and district health and educational systems, along with the management of select institutions

**B. Concept proposal (<2000 words)**

*a. Proposed interventions and implementation strategies*

A brief on the intervention implementation strategies should be included. The strategies suggested in the research question (use of available point-of-care testing for diagnosis and follow-up, capacity building of providers to reduce physician inertia, easy-to-use treatment algorithms, improved supply logistics of essential drugs and diagnostics, and simplified data information systems) are indicative. The investigator may choose all or a few of the suggested strategies and include other relevant strategies with justification.

Note that the implementation strategies should be embedded in the existing district health system by utilizing the manpower and infrastructure of the facilities. Implementation should focus on strengthening the NP-NCD, improving processes, and addressing bottlenecks in the system affecting quality care for patients.

All implementation should be done by the state/district health functionaries. The role of the research team is to provide implementation support and concurrent process and outcome measurements using qualitative and quantitative approaches.

*b. Implementation research design and outline of research plan*

A brief on the proposed implementation research design and research outcomes should be provided. The design should be mixed methods measuring the processes and implementation outcomes (not just the disease outcomes). Reproducibility, and local adaptability will be key for scaling up a successful model in the future.

**C. Research team (<500 words)**

Summarize and justify the composition of the research team based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementing the project. Also, highlight the skill set and expertise the members shall bring to the research team for developing the final protocol and research project implementation.

#### **D. Established Relationships with the health system (<500 words)**

Operational feasibility would be the key to this Implementation research study. The EoI should also describe the existing or proposed liaising with the district/state health system where the study is proposed to be undertaken.

#### **E. Experiences in population-based research - three examples (<250 words each)**

Provide a brief on the three best examples of implementation research/health system research/population or community-based research in which the proposed research team has led/conducted/participated. In the three examples, highlight the role of the proposed research team member/s and explain the integration with district/state health departments (if any).

#### **F. Additional documents**

##### *a. Illustrative Budget outline*

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring contingency, data management, travel, and equipment.

##### *b. One-page CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators in a single pdf*

Please provide a one-page CV of the PI and key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- a. Academic and professional qualifications
- b. Current position and affiliation
- c. Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- d. Up to five most relevant previous publications

#### **Review process:**

The EOI documents will be evaluated and shortlisted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR expert team will screen the applications using five major criteria

- Relevance and understanding of the problem -20%
- Intervention implementation strategies and research methods- 20%
- Research team composition -20%
- Capacity to conduct implementation research-20%
- Relationship with the health system-20%

#### **What is the next step?**

The shortlisted teams will be invited to collaborate and develop a detailed proposal coordinated through ICMR HQ. The developed proposal will be evaluated by the expert group for the technical and operational aspects.

#### **Who can submit the EOI?**

The EOI can be submitted through ONLINE MODE ONLY by scientists/ professionals with regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition, including a DSIR certificate should be available).

## Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI

1. The EOI must address the specific research question in the call text.
2. Collaborative, interdisciplinary research teams will be encouraged.
3. Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should fill out the Google form at the below link and submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** as per the Format given above. Only shortlisted PI will be contacted

**Link** - <https://forms.gle/Gsi9srQfezQkd1iz8>

## Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Last date for submission of EOI	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Shortlisting of EOIs	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2023
Proposal Development Workshop	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Submission of a full proposal	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2023

**For any queries related to the call, please contact**

**Dr. Roopa Shivashankar,**

Scientist-E

Division of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

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## Call for proposals to establish Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) under Extramural Program

### Overview and purpose

Under its Extramural Research Programme, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) funds Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) to promote advanced research by experienced research teams.

### What the CAR is expected to do:

Conducting decisive research that helps in solving an important healthcare problem by a research team. It can have single or multiple linked research projects with clear deliverables.

### Priority diseases or conditions

Research teams planning to undertake studies in finding solutions for prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation of the following diseases or conditions will receive preference for selection as CAR.

**Table-1: Priority Diseases and conditions**

Communicable Diseases	Non-Communicable Diseases	Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition
One-health	Cancer	Anaemia & micronutrient deficiencies
Antimicrobial resistance	Cardio-vascular diseases	Childhood Malnutrition
Tuberculosis	Diabetes	Early Child Development; particularly improving neurodevelopmental outcomes of small and sick newborns
Vector Borne Diseases	Chronic Kidney Disease	Neonatal Mortality Reduction- Preterm/LBW, asphyxia, neonatal sepsis
Respiratory Infections	Chronic liver/GE diseases	Genetic disorders/congenital anomalies
Neurological Infections	Chronic Respiratory diseases	PCOS/endometriosis
Hepatic infections	Neurological Conditions	Antenatal, intrapartum and post-natal care
Sepsis	Mental Health	Preconception care
AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections	Blood disorders including hemoglobinopathies	Obstetric hemorrhage
	Oral Health	
	Ageing	

**Duration of project and funding:** Current budgetary ceiling is 15 crores per CAR. Duration of project will be for five years.

### **How to apply**

A proposal can be submitted for financial support through ONLINE MODE ONLY by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the proposed team of Scientists/ professionals who have a regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ recognized Research & Development laboratories/ Government and semi-government organizations and NonGovernmental Organizations The research team should have credentials for relevant skills, experience and demonstrated ability to solve health problems under consideration.

**ICMR scientists/institutes are not eligible to apply under this call.** ICMR scientists may be named as co-investigators in these projects, but no funds will be given for ICMR institutions or scientists in these cases.

Format for project proposal is provided at Annexure-I

### **Proposal Review Process**

Two independent experts will review and score each project proposal. The scoring criteria are as follows:

1. Skill and capacity of Research team (PI, CoPI):	20
2. Publications* since 01-Jan-17 including IF	20
3. Impact of publications (public health policy/clinical protocol/patent)	20
4. Concept note of proposed research	40

**Total** **100**

(\* Publications as first, last or corresponding authors)

Based on independent review by two experts, the proposals will be shortlisted. The PI will be requested to submit a detailed proposal if the concept proposal is shortlisted. The detailed proposal will be reviewed by the CAR Selection Committee.

### **Timeline**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Date</b>
Release of Call	01 <sup>st</sup> June-2023
Submission of CAR concept notes*	31 <sup>st</sup> July-2023
Shortlisting of Concept Notes	31-August-2023

Submission of detailed proposal	30-Sep-2023
Selection of CAR after review in Project Selection Committee	15-Nov-2023

*\* ICMR epms portal will accept Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) under Extramural Program between 15<sup>th</sup> June-2023, 00:00 hrs IST to 31<sup>st</sup> July-2023 17:00 hrs IST*

#### ANNEXURE\_I: Format for submission of Concept note for Centre for Advanced Research

- Title of the proposed CAR (up to 25 words):** should be **specific, concise** and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.
- Summary (up to 250 words):** A structured summary should contain the following subheadings: (i)Rationale/ gaps in existing knowledge, (ii)Novelty, (iii)Objectives, (iv)Methods, and (v)Expected outcome.
- Does it cover a priority area? If yes please select the most appropriate one from the list below:

Communicable Diseases	Non-Communicable Diseases	Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition
<input type="radio"/> One-health	<input type="radio"/> Cancer	<input type="radio"/> Anaemia & micronutrient deficiencies
<input type="radio"/> Antimicrobial resistance	<input type="radio"/> Cardio-vascular diseases	<input type="radio"/> Childhood Malnutrition
<input type="radio"/> Tuberculosis	<input type="radio"/> Diabetes	<input type="radio"/> Early Child Development; particularly improving neurodevelopmental outcomes of small and sick newborns
<input type="radio"/> Vector Borne Diseases	<input type="radio"/> Chronic Kidney Disease	<input type="radio"/> Neonatal Mortality Reduction- Preterm/LBW, asphyxia, neonatal sepsis
<input type="radio"/> Respiratory Infections	<input type="radio"/> Chronic liver/GE diseases	<input type="radio"/> Genetic disorders/congenital anomalies
<input type="radio"/> Neurological Infections	<input type="radio"/> Chronic Respiratory diseases	<input type="radio"/> PCOS/endometriosis
<input type="radio"/> Hepatic infections	<input type="radio"/> Neurological Conditions	<input type="radio"/> Antenatal, intrapartum and post-natal care
<input type="radio"/> Sepsis	<input type="radio"/> Mental Health	<input type="radio"/> Preconception care
<input type="radio"/> AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections	<input type="radio"/> Blood disorders including hemoglobinopathies	<input type="radio"/> Obstetric hemorrhage
	<input type="radio"/> Oral Health	
	<input type="radio"/> Ageing	

#### 4. Area of research (Please mark primary and secondary research area of CAR)

- Discovery research** aimed at finding novel interventions (basic research). It may include projects on novel diagnostics, devices, therapeutics and vaccines including phytopharmaceuticals and traditional medicines and genomic methods/algorithms/tools for personalized medicine etc.
- Development research** aimed at developing interventions for screening, diagnosis, prevention, treatment of diseases/conditions or make existing interventions simpler, safer, more efficacious, or more affordable. Examples of such research includes development of Point of care tests, molecular diagnostic tests, animal models for diseases appropriate dosage and formulations, artificial intelligence and machine learning predictive tools/models, phase 2/3 (or equivalent phase) clinical trials of vaccine and therapeutics etc.

**Delivery research** or implementation research aimed at learning how to overcome barriers in delivering effective interventions to the people who need them. This will include health system-based interventions to increase access, and to successfully implement national health programme or schemes, reducing inequity and improve quality of health care.

4. **Short Curriculum Vitae highlighting research skills, content expertise and grants:**  
(Annexure-II)
  1. Short CV of PI : (maximum 4 pages)
  2. Short CV of Co-PI-s: (maximum 4 pages)
3. **Institutional Support/ Facilities:** Mention the efforts made to achieve inter-departmental or interinstitutional collaboration needed for study implementation, details of coordination between clinical, laboratory and data management procedures etc.
4. **Laboratory facilities (in-vitro/ in-silico):** institutional resources such as instruments/ equipment/ animal house and other physical resources available for use in the project proposed etc.
5. **Budget:** Budget should be as per ICMR guidelines available on the website. Justifications for all sub-headings under budget (as per ICMR format) is to be provided in detail.
6. **Conflict of Interest Declaration (if any):** PI will be asked to submit declaration, if shortlisted.
7. **Additional supplementary information including figures, tables, flow diagrams, etc. can be shared as PDF (20-30 KB).**



**Annexure-I**

Format of Curriculum Vitae for PI / CoPI **Personal**

**Details**

Name	
Contact details	
Date of Birth	
Academic Qualification	
Affiliation	
Fellow of Academies, (mention names of academies, if any)	
H-index	
Domain Expertise	

**List of publications since 01-01-2017**

Publication details in AMA style	Impact factor of journal	Name of policy/programme/ protocol document or patent/commercialization of products where cited.

(\* Publications as first, last or corresponding authors)

**List of projects undertaken since 01-01-2019**

Short title of the project	Primary objective (in brief)	Type of study (e.g. RCT / Prevalence/Lab-based)	Funding agency	Grant amount	Time period

**List of patents since 01-01-2017**

Title of Patent	Date of filing	Name of the institute (collaborative)	Whether patent is commercialized or not, If yes, Give the details

**Important note for the submission of proposal:**

1. Submission Portal will open from 15<sup>th</sup> June-2023
2. Open the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS) portal <https://epms.icmr.org.in>. The user manual of e-PMS (under Guidelines → e-PMS manual) is available on the portal.
3. Project proposal submission is three steps process in e-PMS:  
Step 1: PI registration/ Login (<https://epms.icmr.org.in/userLogin>)  
Step 2: Verify email ID and complete/ update PI profile

### Step 3: Proposal submission

4. After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on “Proposal submission → Click on Call for proposal Click on the click here to apply new proposal against ‘Call for proposals to establish Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) under Extramural Program’ → Fill the form step by step.
5. Please submit the budget in prescribed format.
6. Inclusion of at least one Co-PI from PI’s institute is mandatory.
7. PIs are advised to submit proposal well ahead of the last date, since servers may be overloaded and slow to respond.
8. **For any queries related to the call, please contact**

Dr. Pulkit Verma

Scientist C

Division of BMI, ICMR Headquarters,

V Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029

*Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in*

### **Format of Budget for ICMR Extramural Call (Staff, Equipment, Contingency/Consumables and Travel Allowance)**

<b>Staff/Manpower</b>	
Sl. No.	Salary (As per ICMR Project guidelines)
Justification of Staff/Manpower	

<b>Equipment</b>				
Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Estimated cost with Quotations (Preferably of GeM)	Justification	Mode of Proposed disposal

<b>Contingency</b>	
Detail	Breakup with Justification
Year 1: Total Amount (e.g. 50,000) (amount is just for reference)	1) Item 1: 20,000/- 2) Item 2: 30,000/-
Year 2:	--
Year 3:	--

<b>Consumables</b>	
Detail	Breakup with Justification
Year 1: Total Amount (e.g. 5,00,000) (amount is just for reference)	1) Item 1: 2,00,000/- 2) Item 2: 3,00,000/-
Year 2:	--
Year 3:	--

**Format of Budget for ICMR Extramural Call  
(Staff, Equipment, Contingency/Consumables and Travel Allowance)**

<b>Travel Allowance</b>	
Detail	Justification
Year 1:	
Year 2:	
Year 3:	

<b>Overhead charges(as per rules)</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Principal Investigator  
with Stamp**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Accounts Officer  
with Stamp**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Head of the Institute  
with Stamp**

**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Request for Expression of Interest for ICMR Collaborating Centre of Excellence  
(ICMR-CCoE) Background:**

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex body for formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research in India. It is committed to promote, support and conduct research to improve health of all our citizens, and to make India a global leader in Health. Our institutions should achieve global Leadership in research with an aim to solve health problems of Indian citizens.

ICMR recognises that India is becoming a global power in health research. A number of research institutions of public and private sectors including medical colleges and nongovernmental organisations have contributed towards this achievement. ICMR aims to foster an enabling and sustainable ecosystem for collaborative, multidisciplinary biomedical research in the country.

In this backdrop, ICMR is inviting Expression of Interest for recognition of ICMR-Collaborating Centres of Excellence.

**Purpose:**

1. ICMR would like to recognise the research groups that have conducted excellent research in the recent past as ICMR Collaborating Centre of Excellence.
2. To foster collaboration between ICMR & its institutes and Centres of Excellence as well as amongst the Centres of Excellence.
3. To strengthen resources of the country, in terms of information, services, research and training in support of national health development.

**Duration:** 5 years (extendable based on review)

**Categories of Organisations:** Public, Private, NGO, academia and research institutions, including medical colleges, universities, veterinary colleges, engineering colleges etc.

**No Financial Support:** Recognition as ICMR-CCoE is independent of any financial support being given to the institution by ICMR. No special financial support will be provided to ICMR-CCoE.

**Eligibility:**

Indian research institutes or organizations can submit the EoI, provided it fulfils the criteria mentioned below:

- A research team of an institute with cutting edge biomedical research experience led by a senior PI.
- Excellent track record in health research in terms of impactful publications.
- Demonstrated collaboration with or contribution to ICMR.
- Willingness to contribute to the objectives and activities of ICMR on an honorary basis, such as adjunct faculty for help in capacity development, assisted with proposal development workshops etc.
- Willingness to work with ICMR on national priorities related to public health.
- Categories of research teams to be included: basic research, translational research, clinical research, laboratory-based research, population-based research.

**Application format:**

- A. Name of the Senior Researcher (Principal Investigator):
- B. Name of the institute:
- C. Address with email id and phone no. of PI
- D. Type of Organization:
  - Government
  - Private
  - Non-Government Organization
- E. A brief description (maximum 500 words) of good track record of the applicant research group and institute (expertise, experience, staffing, infrastructure etc. in comparison with others in the same field in the country)
- F. List of publications in last 7 years (since 01-01-2017) in prescribed format (Annexure-I) for PI/CoPI s proposed for CCoE should be included, where s/he was the First/last/ corresponding author). Highlight impact of each publication e.g. inclusion in policy/protocol/programme or being cited in patents/commercialisation of results etc.
- G. List of research projects undertaken in last 5 years (since 01-01-2019) in prescribed format (Annexure- II)
- H. List of patents, technologies, products commercialized (Annexure-III)
- I. Collaboration with ICMR or contribution to ICMR activities in last 5 years (maximum 250 words).
- J. Briefly describe how the proposed CCoE will contribute to objectives and activities of ICMR (maximum 200 words)

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(Signature) **PI of proposed CCoE**

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**Date**

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(Signature with seal)  
**VC/Dean/Principal/Director/Secretary  
University/College/institute NGO**

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**Date of the**

**Annexure-I (list of publication since 01-01-2017)**

Title of publication in AMA style	Impact factor of journal	Name of policy/programme/ protocol document or patent/commercialisation of products where cited.

**Annexure-II (list of projects since 01-01-2019)**

Short title of the project	Primary objective (in brief)	Type of study (e.g. RCT / Prevalence/Lab-based)	Sample size	Grant amount	Time period

**Annexure-III (list of granted patents/commercialised products since 01-01-2017)**

Intellectual Property	Application Number	Title/ Technology or Project to which the invention is related	Status (Filed/Granted)
Patent			
Trademark			
Industrial Design			



**Important note for the submission of proposal:**

1. Submission Portal will open from 15<sup>th</sup> June-2023
2. Open the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (e-PMS) portal <https://epms.icmr.org.in>. The user manual of e-PMS (under Guidelines → e-PMS manual) is available on the portal.
3. Project proposal submission is three steps process in e-PMS:  
Step 1: PI registration/ Login (<https://epms.icmr.org.in/userLogin>)  
Step 2: Verify email ID and complete/ update PI profile  
Step 3: Proposal submission
4. After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on Proposal submission → Click on Call for proposal → Click on the click here to apply new proposal against “Request for Expression of Interest for ICMR Collaborating Centre of Excellence (ICMR-CCoE)” → Fill the form step by step.
5. **For any queries related to the call, please contact**

Dr. Pulkit Verma  
Scientist C

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V Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029

*Email: [po.epms@icmr.gov.in](mailto:po.epms@icmr.gov.in)*

**Tentative Timeline**

Activities	Date
Release of Call	01-June-2023
Last date for submission of proposal	15-July-2023 (17:00hrs)
Review and selection	31-Aug-2023



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद  
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार  
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research  
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health  
and Family Welfare, Government of India

**No: School IR/Oral Health/2023-NCD-II**

**Date: 30/06/2023**

### **Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

#### **For ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on Dental Caries prevention for School children**

**Background:** The Global Burden of Diseases 2019 reported that untreated tooth decay is the most common health condition affecting half of the global population, most of whom are from middle and low-income countries.<sup>1</sup> WHO Global Oral Health status Report 2022, highlights oral health neglect with an estimated global average prevalence of caries of deciduous teeth to be 43% and estimated global average prevalence of caries of permanent teeth to be 29%.<sup>2</sup> The National Oral Health Survey Report 2004, depicts that the caries prevalence in India was 51.9%, 53.8%, and 63.1% at ages 5, 12, and 15 years, respectively, in different parts of India.<sup>3</sup> This reflects the high burden of dental caries among the Indian population posing a public health challenge and hence needing urgent attention for prevention and control of the disease condition.

#### **Rationale of conducting this study**

Dental caries is preventable. The tooth decay and loss of teeth in primary and mixed dentition may cause a variety of malocclusion, pain, loss of school hours, disturbed sleep, poor mastication, nutrition and reduced QoL. Behaviour modification in children is easier, and when oral health promotion starts early, it can significantly reduce the burden in the latter part of life. Implementing school-based oral health programs, especially brushing, have showed a significant reduction in DMFT (decayed, missing due to caries & filled teeth) status in children. School-based intervention can play an essential role in reducing oral health disease burden in lower and middle-income countries. Therefore, the aim of this EOI is to identify researchers from across the country to join the team being constituted for ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on dental caries prevention in school children. The selected researchers shall be invited to join the research team and shall collaborate to develop full proposal. The goal is to reduce the burden of dental caries in children and promote oral health in the country.

#### **Research Question**

How school-based tooth brushing/interventions and positive oral health behavior can be implemented for preventing dental caries in children?

- *Population:* Primary school children nationwide
- *Interventions:* Oral Health Education and school-based tooth brushing intervention/other intervention
- *Outcome Parameters:* Acceptability, adoption, feasibility, cost effectiveness, fidelity, sustainability of school based toothbrushing/intervention to be assessed.
  - Impact of toothbrushing/intervention to be assessed on caries prevention by DMFT score (Decayed, missing due to caries, and Filled Teeth)

<sup>1</sup><https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240061484>

<sup>3</sup><https://dciindia.gov.in/Download/NOHSBOOK.pdf>

## Objectives

- To develop an evidence-based model for the implementation of tooth brushing/interventions and oral health behavior modification in schools for improving oral health which is practical, scalable, sustainable and flexible as per local needs.
- Encourage collaboration and partnerships among government agencies, non-governmental organisations, oral health experts, and community-based organisations to improve Oral Health in India

## Target group:

Children in primary schools in Rural and Urban parts of India preferably in age group of 6-10 years. To begin with 4-6 districts with one district per state in 5 zones of the country (North, South, East, West, Centre, Northeast) can be chosen.

## Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research/Strategies that address implementation problems and allow scale up of the framework (may not necessarily include these points)

### Suggestive Implementation model

- A. Intervention Characteristics/Research inputs
  1. Oral health behaviour modification through creating awareness by oral health education- Development of modules for creating oral health awareness regarding healthy mouth, oral hygiene maintenance, risk factors awareness, oral health problems and emergency management for improving knowledge and practices of teachers, school staff, children, parents and caregivers.
  2. Dental caries prevention, arrest & Oral health promotion interventions- Development of implementation model for Group Post meal supervised Tooth Brushing/other oral health intervention for control of risk factors or for arresting caries in School
  3. Developing Strategies for Motivation to children for sustainability of positive oral health behavior/intervention
- B. Development of sustainable Supportive framework for prevention and control of dental caries
- C. Monitoring & Evaluation strategies for effective implementation-Strategies for identifying barriers & facilitators for implementation and developing practical, scalable and sustainable solutions as per local needs and developing iterative implementation models. Measurable process and outcome indicators will be critical for assessing the research project. Reproducibility and local adaptability will be key for scaling up a successful model in future.

*Please note:* The list is indicative. You may suggest other interventions that can be taken up for consideration during the development of final proposal.

## Research Design:

Adopting the principles of the implementation research framework:

- Using mixed method designs that combine qualitative and quantitative methods.
- if the circumstances call for it, a cluster-randomized trial approach can be utilized.

## **Process Evaluation/Research output:**

- Description of how interventions were implemented and their cost
- Coverage of intervention
- Quality of intervention
- At baseline and post intervention, impact of toothbrushing/intervention can be assessed on caries prevention using DMFT score

## **Expected outcomes.**

**Primary Outcome Parameters:** Acceptability, adoption, feasibility, cost effectiveness, fidelity, sustainability of school based toothbrushing/intervention can be assessed.

**Secondary Outcome Parameters-** Impact of toothbrushing/intervention to be assessed on caries prevention like DMFT score (Decayed, missing due to caries, and Filled Teeth)

**Intermediate outcomes:** outcome measures to assess the progress of implementation and to develop an iterative model like plaque index and acceptability (by children, school staff & teachers and oral health professionals), feasibility and barriers in implementation can be assessed.

*Please note:* These outcome variables are indicative. You may include other outcome measures during the development of final proposal.

## **Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted (Max two pages)**

### **A. Rationale of proposed study including the choice of sites (states and districts) where the implementation shall be carried**

The proposal should clearly state the rationale for the study, the recommended sites (states and districts) and the likelihood of utilization of the model by stakeholders in the future. The proposal can also provide evidence from previous research on the topic in the county or elsewhere and describe any district or state-specific challenges related to implementation for the target group(s).

### **B. Implementation Strategy**

Provide a clear and detailed description of the intervention(s) being implemented, including the target population, the intervention components, and the implementation strategies.

You may include preparatory activities, mapping, a timeline, steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

### **C. Address feasibility and scalability**

Address the feasibility and scalability of the proposed intervention or policy, including the resources needed for implementation, the capacity of the implementing organization, and the potential for wider adoption and scale-up.

### **D. Research Team**

Summarize and justify the composition of the research team, based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementing the project. Also, highlight the skill set and expertise the members shall bring to the research team that shall be constituted by ICMR for the development of the final protocol and research project implementation.

## **E. Established relationships with state and district health systems and educational institutions**

Operational feasibility would be key for this implementation research study. Include the collaborations that have been established with the potential stakeholders and participants including state and district health and educational systems, along with the management of select institutions.

### **Illustrative Budget outline (additional to the two-page limit)**

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring contingency, data management, travel and equipment.

### **One-page CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators in a single pdf (additional to the two-page limit)**

Please provide a one-page CV of the PI and other key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- Academic and professional qualifications
- Current position and affiliation
- Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- Up to five most relevant previous publications

### **Duration of the project:**

The project duration will be up to three years. An additional period of up to 6 months for preparatory activities (with no additional costs) can be incorporated into the project proposal.

## **1. Review process:**

The EOI documents for the Multistate Implementation Research Project on school based oral health Interventions will be evaluated and shortlisted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR team will screen the applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. The shortlisted teams will then collaborate to develop a detailed proposal, under the guidance of ICMR Headquarters. The proposal will be evaluated based on factors such as study design, feasibility, data management capabilities, prior experience, engagement with public health and education systems, and potential for seamless integration. The feasibility and suitability of integration of the proposed methodology in the final proposal to be developed under the guidance of ICMR Headquarters shall also be considered while shortlisting the EOI.

## **2. Who can submit the EOI?**

The EOI can be submitted through ONLINE MODE ONLY by scientists/ professionals who have regular employment in Medical or Dental Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition including DSIR certificate should be available).

## **3. Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI**

1. The EOI must address the specific research question that is mentioned in the call text.
2. Collaborative, multi-centre, interdisciplinary research initiatives from the applicant will be encouraged.
4. Descriptive studies, systematic reviews and secondary data analysis will not be considered

5. Should focus on outcomes that are translatable into policy.
6. Evaluation of the development of indigenous technologies and solutions relevant to the Indian context may be prioritized
7. Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should fill out the Google form at the below link and submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** as per the Format given above. Only shortlisted PI will be contacted.

Link - <https://forms.gle/CZpTrS8kpuJZ7bDD6>

#### Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>
Last date for submission of EOI	<b>31<sup>st</sup> July 2023</b>
Shortlisting of EOIs	<b>17<sup>th</sup> August 2023</b>
Proposal Development Workshop	<b>27<sup>th</sup> August 2023</b>
Submission of a full proposal	<b>31<sup>st</sup> September 2023</b>

**For any queries related to the call, please contact-**

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