

## The UK's National Institute for Health Research Adding Value in Research Framework

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### Background

The UK's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) was established in April 2006 and is funded by the UK [Departments of Health and Social Care](#). It has five objectives:<sup>[9]</sup>

- to fund high quality research to improve health
- to train and support health researchers
- to provide world-class research facilities
- works with the life sciences industry and charities to benefit all
- involves patients and the public at every step

The impact of research, what difference research actually makes for patients and the public, is quite rightly our usual focus. It's the reason health related research maintains the support of the UK's NHS and society generally. But it is also essential to consider and acknowledge *how* we deliver research.

The NIHR has developed the Adding Value in Research Framework that explores what we do, as a research funder and boarder research community, to ensure we maximise the probability if impact for a given cost.

### Objectives

The NIHR's Adding Value in Research Framework seeks to raise the probability of impact of health-related research for a given cost by reducing avoidable waste, increasing its relevance, and improving quality and integrity of research.

When we choose to fund and deliver research we balance ethical and moral considerations, allocate money from the public purse, make difficult choices between comparably important opportunities, tie up excellent professionals who could focus on other priorities, and above all, rely on the involvement and participation of patients and the public. We therefore have a responsibility and necessity to consider what we do well and what could be improved.

This is *Adding Value in Research*. By defining *Value* as impact for a given cost, we make an explicit connection between how we deliver research and the benefits research ultimately delivers.

### Method

The framework was developed based on the avoidable waste, research integrity and transparency literature, The framework was developed through discussion across NIHR and with wider stakeholders.

It consists of a set of high level principles and specific policy and practice requirements.

It is now being used by other funders and other parts of the research landscape, across the globe.

### Results

I will present the NIHR's Adding Value in Research Framework, its underpinning values and principles, our experience of implementing it, how it is being used by others across the globe, the implications for the academic community, and what challenges lay ahead.