

Evaluation criteria

1. Scientific Excellence

a. Scientific Rigor, Innovations and Improvements

- Scientific quality and relevance of research questions, presentation of the project plan.
- Originality and contribution to the field. Innovation and scientific relevance of the study and how it will contribute to extend the knowledge beyond the state of the art, potential to change the current medical/clinical practice.
- Theoretical foundation and soundness of the evidence presented in support of the study rationale.

b. Research team, Project Design and Feasibility

- Expertise and quality of the PI and research team
- Appropriateness of methodology and study design, support from pilot data where relevant
- Realism of timeline, budget, and use of resources
- Risk assessment and mitigation strategies where appropriate
- Meaningful links to national networks and existing infrastructures.

2. Impact and Implementation Potential

a. Clinical and Societal Relevance

- Relevance to meeting patient needs and potential to improve patient outcomes and/or specialist healthcare services
- Alignment with health priorities and needs, filling knowledge gaps
- Relevance to patient groups, users and stakeholders

b. Implementation Readiness

- Plans for dissemination, knowledge translation and user involvement (including engagement with patients and other public groups)
- Substantive involvement of pertinent patient organisations or patient representatives or other relevant stakeholders (in planning and execution of the trial, and dissemination of the results).
- Plans for application of results, implementation into clinical practice (long and/or short term)