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Welcome



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Health Technologies Connectivity Awards: round 2

A webinar to outline the funding opportunity
2nd July 2025

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EPSRC Healthcare Technologies team
healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org

Agenda

1 Background and Context

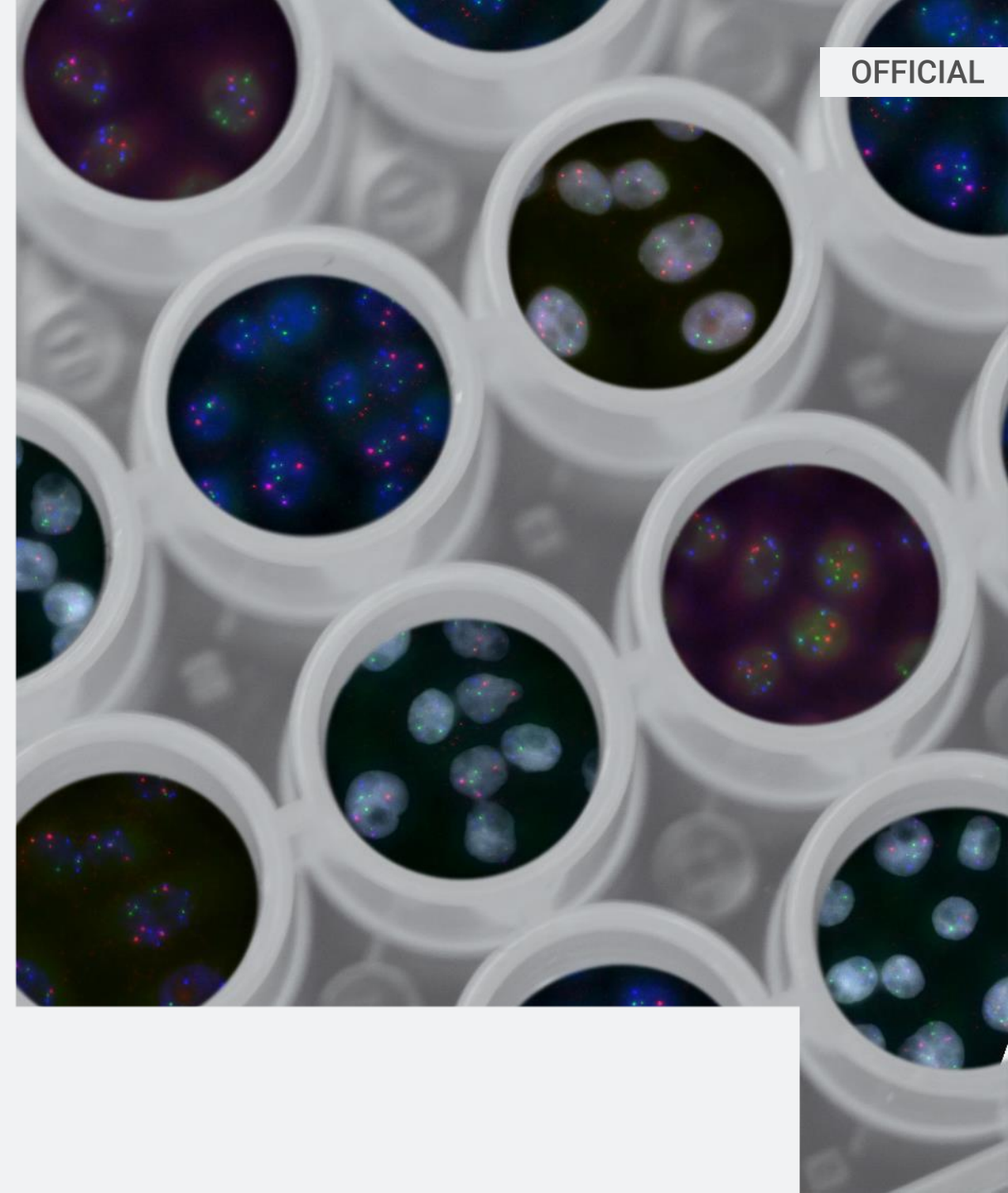
Health Technologies Strategy and remit of the pilot project(s)

2 Funding Opportunity Summary

Outline of the funding opportunity

3 Q&A

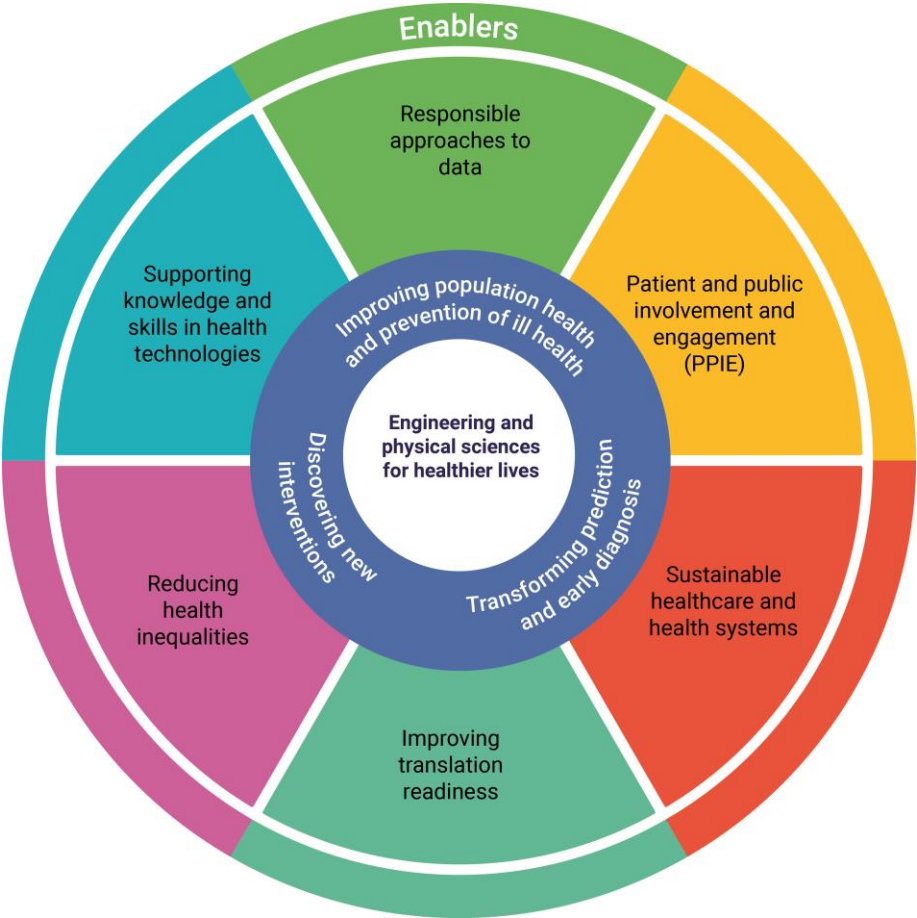
Answering your questions



EPSRC Health Technologies Strategy

Vision

The health technologies theme vision is to stimulate advances in transformative engineering and physical sciences research to have a significant impact in health and ultimately enable people to live healthier lives.



Improving Population Health & Prevention	Transforming Early Prediction & Diagnosis	Discovering & accelerating the development of new interventions
- Population Models - Predictive approaches to a healthy society - Engineering Healthier Environments	- Tools to advance earlier diagnosis & detection of disease - Novel techniques for patient specific diagnosis - Detecting infections and antimicrobial resistance - Supporting people to manage their own health	- Resilient manufacturing - Therapies for chronic conditions - Engineering and materials research with therapeutic properties - Innovative Technologies for physical intervention

Successful Awards from Round 1

Award Title	Home Organisation
TRANSFORM-VHT: Transforming Healthcare through Virtual Human Technology in Underserved Communities	University of Kent
Connectivity to Enable Accurate Patient-Specific Cardiovascular Assessments	University of Sheffield
Combining advanced computational and optical mapping experimental approaches to elucidate mechanisms of human uterine electrical excitation	Coventry University
Leveraging AI-driven decision support systems to improve cataract surgery outcomes	Queen's University of Belfast
PaiNeuro: Towards objective PAIN measurement using NEUROphysiological signals	University of Essex
Cyber Security of Digital Medical Devices: Establishing UK Capability for a New Design and Development Route.	Lancaster University
Preventing tumour lysis syndrome using real-time biosensors	Newcastle University
Understanding the clinical pathway for early-stage point-of-care testing of Sepsis	University of Southampton
A digital twin of childbirth: Introducing healthcare technologies in obstetrics	University of East Anglia
Playful Assistive Technology for Complex Trauma Healing in Young People (PACT)	University College London
Wound Management and Microbiota Control using Light: Harnessing Advanced Research in Quantum Dot Materials for Health Tech (HARQDOT)	University of Strathclyde
TRANSFORMING NEONATAL NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CARE: PRECISION PREDICTION THROUGH EEG-BASED DIGITAL TWINS.	University of Exeter
Fibre Optic Biosensor Platform for Rapid Test of Antimicrobial Resistance	Northumbria University

Funding Opportunity Summary

- Aim & Scope
- Expected outcomes
- Eligibility
- Home and host organisations
- Duration and Working Pattern
- Funding available
- Assessment process
- Mandatory Intention to Submit
- Assessment criteria
- Timeline
- Where to get help



Principal Aim

To provide researchers with an opportunity to spend time in a different research or user environment to better understand unmet health needs, how engineering and physical sciences research can contribute to developing new health technologies approaches and solutions and how this research can be translated.

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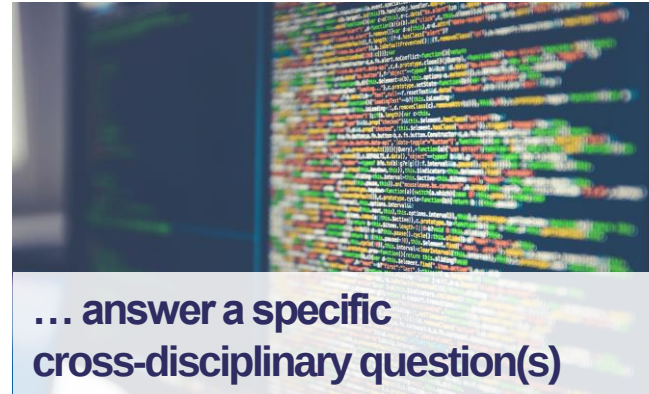
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Scope

- open for **teams as well as individuals** to apply
- come from core EPSRC research fields and spend time in other relevant disciplines, user fields, or both (users may include industry, clinical or public sector environments) and vice versa
- novel EPS **research aligned with the 2023 health technologies strategy** must comprise a significant proportion of the placement
- Round 2: we aim to fund **a diverse range of projects** across the health technologies portfolio and **to complement the previous round** of this funding opportunity

Immerse in a new environment and...



Expected Outcomes

- better **identification of the healthcare challenges** and clinical workflows where EPS has the potential to lead to novel solutions
- **understanding of the drivers** for these research challenges and the context in which any solution would be deployed
- **broadening awareness** of the current state of the art in other scientific disciplines that are needed to address these research challenges
- **understanding of the social science and design factors** that influence the adoption and use of healthcare technologies and patient concordance
- **strengthening or building new collaborations** and carrying out research within health technologies with these collaborators

Eligibility

- This scheme is open for **teams as well as individuals** to apply
- EPSRC standard eligibility rules apply
- **Project co-lead (international):**
 - UKRI and Research Council of Norway Money Follows Cooperation agreement
 - a 'project co-lead (international)' can be based in a **Norwegian institution**

Home and Host Organisations

- **Home organisation** employs you and is eligible to receive EPSRC funding
- **Host organisation** will provide you with the different research or user environment, or both
- Engaging with **multiple host organisations** is allowed
- **Hosts** can be listed in the **core team** and receive funding if from **eligible** organisation

Duration and Working Pattern

- Up to 36 months in total
- Pattern of work **can vary and can change during the duration of the grant**
- Applicants to **immerse themselves in the new environment** (provided by the host organisation) for time appropriate to their specific training needs and pilot project(s)
- We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances

Funding Available

- The **FEC** of your project can be up to **£500,000**
 - EPSRC will fund 80% of the FEC (i.e. £400,000)
- We will fund:
 - salary of the core team
 - project co-lead(s) at the host institution (see home and host organisations section for definition of host institution) to provide the necessary training and guidance, subject to [EPSRC's eligibility for funding](#)
 - travel and subsistence while away from the home institution
 - training courses or development opportunities, including those for commercialisation and knowledge exchange
 - consumables to carry out the research
 - spending on broadening the impact of the award and maximising collaborative work between other disciplines
 - equipment (Between £25,000 and £400,000 per item)

Assessment Process

- **Expert panel**

- Experts will review your application independently, against the specified criteria for this funding opportunity. They will then rank it alongside other applications at a panel meeting.
- You will have the opportunity to respond to experts' comments prior to the panel discussion.
- We expect the expert panel to be held in February 2026.

- **Feedback**

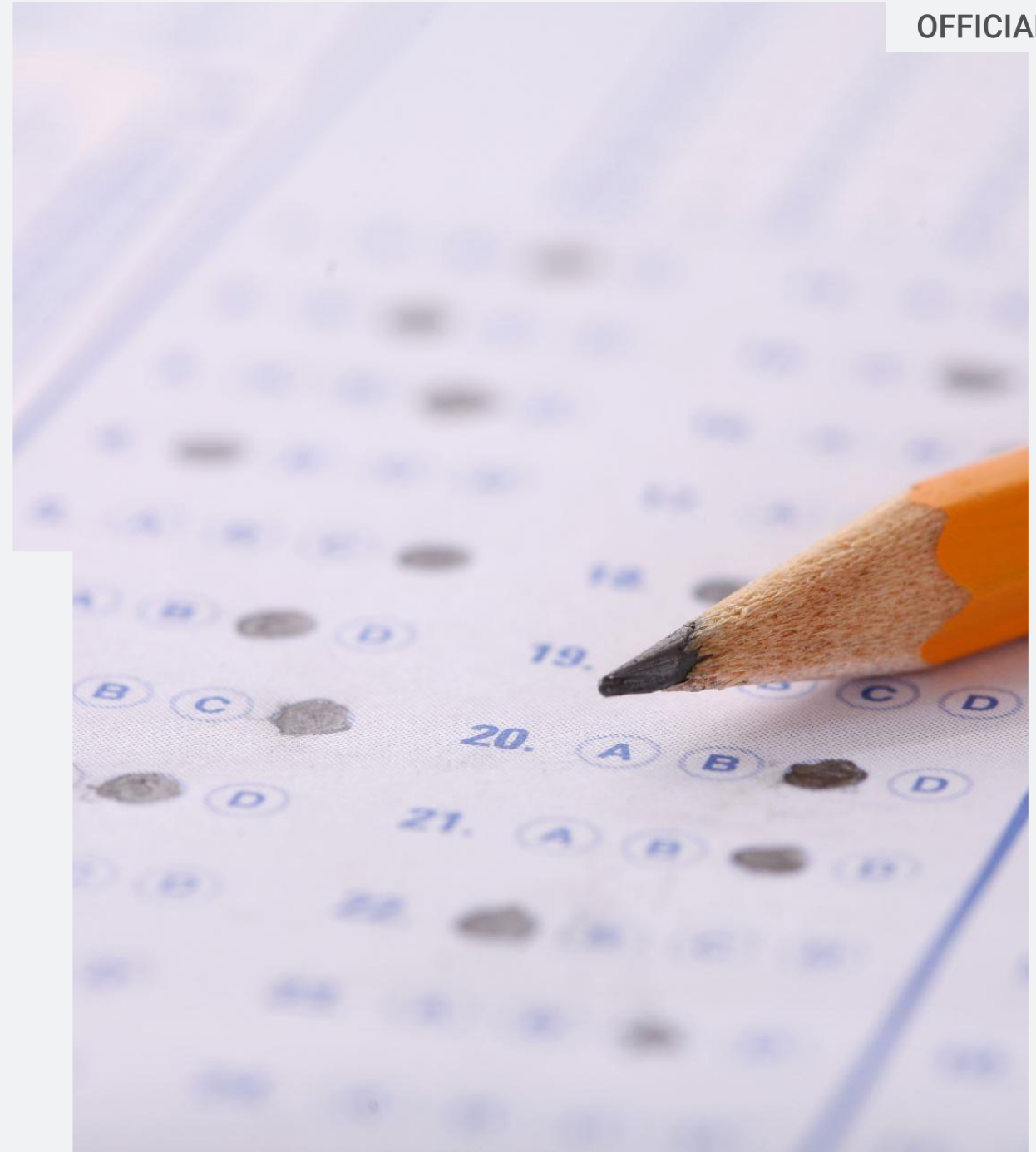
- We will give feedback summarising the key points from the expert panel discussion with the outcome of your application.

Mandatory Intention to Submit form

- **mandatory** to submit by **18 September 2025 at 4:00pm UK time**
- to understand expected submissions levels and the spread of applications, and to identify potential pool of expert panel members
- **not formally assessed**
- we recognise that information provided in the full proposal, including the names of the partners, may differ from the information provided in the intention to submit form
- **Information requested:**
 - Name of the project lead
 - Email address of the project lead
 - Home organisation (where would the grant be held)
 - Draft title of your Connectivity award
 - List of key words describing the Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) research areas addressed by your Connectivity award
 - List of your intended hosts and host organisations
 - List of your intended project partners

Assessment Criteria

- vision of the project, and approach to the project
- added value of the project
- capability of the applicant or applicants and the project team to deliver the project
- career development
- home and host organisations support
- resources requested to do the project
- ethical and responsible research and innovation considerations of the project



Assessment Criterion: Vision and Approach

Vision

- explain how your proposed work:
 - **aligns strategically to the funding opportunity aims and scope**
 - is of **excellent quality and importance** within or beyond the field(s) or area(s)
 - has the potential **to advance current understanding**, generates new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond health technologies
 - is **timely** given current trends, context and needs
 - **impacts world-leading** research, society, the economy or the environment
- identify the potential direct or indirect benefits and who the beneficiaries might be

Assessment Criterion: Vision and Approach

Approach

- explain how you have designed your work so that it:
 - is **effective and appropriate** to achieve your objectives
 - is **feasible**, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed
 - if applicable, uses **a clear and transparent methodology**
 - if applicable, **summarises the previous work** and describes how this will be built upon and progressed
 - will **maximise translation of outputs** into outcomes and impacts
 - describes how your and your host's, and if applicable your team's, **research environment(s)** (in terms of the place, and relevance to the project) will **contribute to the success of the work**
- demonstrate access to the appropriate services, facilities, infrastructure, or equipment to deliver the proposed work
- demonstrate the potential for the award to have **a positive, long-term impact on the applicant or team's research career**
- provide a project plan including milestones and timelines in the form of a Gantt chart or similar (additional one-page A4)

Assessment Criterion: Added Value

- Demonstrate how the award will:
 - allow you **to immerse yourself, and if applicable your team, in a different research or user environment(s)** to better understand unmet health needs
 - **build capacity for future skills requirements in a relevant health technologies challenge(s)** outlined in the 2023 EPSRC health technologies strategy
 - **provide unique contributions** to the research and community within health technologies
 - create **new interdisciplinary research** communities and topics
 - achieve **sustainability of impacts** beyond the funding requested through collaborative working

Assessment Criterion: Applicant and team capability to deliver

- Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:
 - the **relevant experience** (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
 - the **right balance of skills and expertise** (including that of the collaborators or host organisation) to cover the proposed work
 - the **appropriate leadership and management skills** to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
 - contributed to developing a **positive research environment** and wider community

Assessment Criterion: Career Development

- Ensure that you have identified:
 - **career development goals** appropriate to the funding opportunity
 - how the award will provide a feasible and **appropriate trajectory** for your or your team's personal development and to achieve your stated career development goals (as appropriate to your career stage and field)
 - what **mentoring arrangements** are proposed and how they are appropriate to you or your team
- demonstrate that the identified career goals and mentoring arrangements are **inclusive of each team member** named in the core team section **and any unnamed staff** such as research and innovation associates

Assessment Criterion: Home and host organisations support

- provide evidence detailing **how the home and host organisations will support you**, as appropriate for your career development and the vision and approach of the award
- who you have engaged with in your host organisation (name and role)
- how your research environment will contribute to the success of the work, in terms of **suitability of the host organisation and strategic relevance to the project**
- how the home organisation will ensure your **time commitment to the award is protected**
- what **development and training opportunities** will be provided and how they form a cohesive career development package tailored to your aims and aspirations
- what **financial or practical support**, such as access to the appropriate services, facilities, infrastructure, or equipment, is being provided and how this strengthens your application

Assessment criterion: Resources and cost justification

- Assessors are not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown of all project resources. Overall, they want you to demonstrate how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work:
 - are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified
 - represent the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes
 - maximise potential outcomes and impacts

Assessment criterion: Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

- Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:
 - the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
 - how you will manage these considerations
- If you are collecting or using data, identify:
 - any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing the data including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security and other ethical considerations and, in particular, strategies to not preclude further reuse of data
 - formal information standards with which your study will comply

Timeline



Where to get help

- [EPSRC Health technologies strategy](#)
- **Webinar recording** – will be uploaded to the opportunity webpage soon
- **FAQ document** – will be uploaded to the opportunity webpage soon
- healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org



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Questions?



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Thank you



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