

What is the Health and Care Research Wales Evidence Centre?

Established April 2023, the Evidence Centre conducts rapid, relevant & rigorous research to inform evidence-based decision-making in policy and practice in Wales, funded by Welsh Government via Health and Care Research Wales. For more information on the [Health and Care Research Wales Evidence Centre, visit our website.](#)

Who is this guidance for?

This guidance has been designed to support policy and practice decision-makers to submit health and social care related research questions to be considered for inclusion on the Evidence Centre [work programme.](#)

What types of research do we conduct?

We work with experienced research groups at Public Health Wales, Health Technology Wales, Cardiff University, Bangor University and Swansea University. We offer:

- [Rapid Evidence Reviews](#) of existing international academic literature using 'systematic review' methods; these usually take 3-4 months.
- [Rapid Primary Research](#) including Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) studies with our Population Data Science team at Swansea University and smaller research studies. (These take longer than a Rapid Evidence Review).

Our Submission Process

The Evidence Centre launch a call for questions roughly every 6 months. This 4th call for questions will be **open from Monday 10 Feb until Friday 28 March 2025.**

Please see the [following link to our online submission form.](#) The form includes a range of prompts or questions to help us understand your evidence need. **Please note that once you have started completing the form, it cannot be saved (until it has been submitted).**

An editable copy of the form is attached to your workshop introduction email to allow you to draft your response.

We ask that each question submission is as thoughtfully developed as possible. To help with this, we are supporting a range of stand-alone workshops, as well as break-out sessions at our in-person Symposium on Wednesday 19 March 2025, to which you are warmly welcome.

How are the research questions selected for the work programme?

Our team, including public members and our research groups, prioritise submitted research questions in consultation with Welsh Government evidence teams, our expert Strategic Advisory Group and our funders Health and Care Research Wales. We use the following criteria:

- Does the question align with **Welsh Government priorities for health and/or social care in Wales?**
- Does the question have potential for **impact and translation into policy or practice**
- How **feasibly** can we answer this question (considering our expertise/timescales)?
- What is the availability of international academic and non-academic **literature/data** on the topic?

Why do we need to know how the evidence will be used?

We are demand driven, conducting research that will be used rather than 'nice to know'. Understanding how and when the evidence will be used helps us to deliver a product that is useful for that purpose.

What is a 'good research question'?

A **focused** question outlining the **key information needed to inform the decision** to enable an efficient and effective search of existing international literature. For example:

- What is the population of interest?
- Do you have specific interventions in mind?
- What are the outcomes of interest?

An infographic detailing key considerations is [available here](#).

How do I know if my research question submission is successful?

The Evidence Centre will review your submission and contact you via the email you have provided to notify you of the outcome. If your submission is successful, or if further clarifications are needed, the Evidence Centre will arrange a meeting to discuss your needs in more detail.

If your question is selected

The involvement of an **engaged, named stakeholder** is required throughout the process of the review. Our stakeholders are the policy, health and social care decision-makers approaching us with a research question or evidence need. The stakeholder is involved in all stages of the research and decision-making process to ensure our research is **co-created and impactful**. An infographic detailing the [expected time commitment from a study stakeholder can be found here](#).

- We will work with you to understand the detail and nuances of your evidence need, and help you develop a focused research question around this.
- We will discuss with you the most appropriate methods to address your research question and either allocate your question to one of [our 4 specialist research teams](#) who will provide a **report summarising the international academic literature** on your topic or to a team to conduct primary research. Reports will be made available on our [online report library](#).
- We will support you through the whole process to ensure the research is aligned to your priorities and evidence need.
- We have **dedicated Knowledge Mobilisation and Impact experts** who will work with you to plan dissemination and implementation of your review findings.

Follow us on X [@EvidenceWales](#) [@TystiolaethCym](#)