

ABC UK Improving Outcomes for Patients Programme 2019 - Guidelines

Aim

The main aim of Action Bladder Cancer UK's annual IOP Programme (launched in 2016) is to encourage and fund small projects that will directly benefit bladder cancer patients. We are interested in stand-alone, high-quality projects which will demonstrate clear outcomes and improve knowledge, facilitate change, explore different approaches and, most importantly, directly improve outcomes for patients or the patient experience.

Outcomes from this programme

This programme will reinforce ABCUK's commitment to support bladder cancer patients by:

- Raising awareness of our interest in supporting projects and new approaches to actual practice;
- Encouraging new work directly relating to bladder cancer in order to challenge the existing situation of low levels of investment in new treatments and low status on the public health agenda;
- Establishing a mechanism to assess interest in this type of project thereby identifying potential areas of interest for further development;
- Widening participation in BC improvement projects to include primary and secondary health sectors (eg GP's, nurses, hospital Trusts, CCGs) and post-graduate students, as well as cancer specialists/academic researchers;
- Providing final reports and measured outcomes as evidence of our impact and for further development, awareness raising and fundraising.

Focus of programme

Submissions must be directly related to bladder cancer and demonstrate direct outcomes and/or benefits for patients. Projects must be UK based. Preference would be shown to new areas of work and pump priming of new projects. Areas of interest might include the following (although projects outside these areas would also be considered on merit):

- Early diagnosis
- Primary care
- Patient decisions
- Improving treatment pathways
- Patient experience and support
- Epidemiological studies
- Laboratory based projects.
- Topics arising from the 2015 NICE Guideline research recommendations for bladder cancer.

Programme Categories

IOPP 2019 is divided into three application categories:

- Nursing
- Primary Care
- Research & Clinical

Further details on individual categories are in the Application Category information below.

NURSING

This category will give grants to projects which are nurse-led. These projects might be focused on areas such as improving treatment systems and pathways within a hospital or clinic; mapping and improving the patient experience, improving bladder cancer monitoring or follow up treatment systems or pathways within hospitals, patient surveys, or they may be within any other area where nursing expertise can make an impact on improving outcomes for bladder cancer patients or their experience of treatment.

Bladder cancer can have a long and complicated treatment pathway, with few treatment options available or surgery which will impact on everyday life for a patient. Following their initial diagnosis, a specialist nurse is often the health professional a bladder cancer patient might see the most often - particularly in administering of treatments, or in follow up clinics, or providing support and advice following bladder removal etc.

This category is open to Urology and Cancer Nursing Specialists.

A nurse might be working with patients within urology services where patients are being diagnosed/tested or undergoing surgery, or within other areas where those with bladder cancer are being treated - such as oncology, radiography etc, or in a follow up clinic where patients are monitored for recurrence or other issues. Nurses within primary care services should apply within the Primary Care category.

Some of the areas of particular interest for applicant projects are listed below, although applications may also cover work outside of these suggested areas:

- Improving patient treatment pathways within your NHS Trust
- Improving treatment procedures
- Improving the patient experience for those with bladder cancer
- Follow up and monitoring
- Improving knowledge of bladder cancer in nursing health professionals

Additional mentoring and assistance with the application process is available for those not familiar with grant applications – although the IOPP application is straightforward.

PRIMARY CARE

This category will give grants to projects which are based in the primary care sector.

Bladder cancer is often diagnosed late, with a great impact on outcomes for patients. This particularly applies to bladder cancer diagnosis in women, where symptoms can often be treated as female gynaecological-related symptoms eg UTI's, menopause etc. Bladder cancer also has one of the highest diagnosis rates following emergency admission. ABC UK is keen to encourage work within the primary health care sector which could help to address these issues and also highlight the need for further work.

The term primary care applies to any services to patients within the primary care sector and projects may be general practitioner or practice staff led. The project may be based in a GP Surgery or clinic, walk in centre, emergency centre, an academic unit for primary care research, focus on At Home services for patients, or wherever a primary care service is delivered.

These projects may cover any area relating to bladder cancer – for example: pathways, procedures or materials for health professionals and patients. Some of the areas of particular interest are listed below, although applications may also cover work outside of these suggested areas:

- Improving early stage diagnosis and testing procedures
- Improving referral pathway for suspected bladder cancer
- Improving diagnosis in women
- Improving knowledge of bladder cancer amongst primary care health professionals
- Raising patient awareness of bladder cancer and symptoms in a primary care context
- Improving primary care support offered to those with bladder cancer

There is an opportunity to discuss project ideas and to receive mentoring assistance with the application process if required.

RESEARCH & CLINICAL

This category will give grants to projects which may be focused on any area of clinical specialism – including urology, oncology, radiology.

Projects may be laboratory, university or hospital based. Projects may be epidemiological or focus on practical clinical practice.

Bladder cancer can be characterised by no real improvement in patient outcomes since the 1970's, with little progress in the development of effective new treatments over the same time period and few improvements in surgical techniques. There is also a lack of data relating to the effectiveness of existing treatments and insufficient robust evidence from fundamental research, translational research and clinical trials to support much current clinical practice, and to guide developments of improved treatments and practices.

Some of the areas of particular interest for applicant projects are listed below, although applications may also cover work outside of these suggested areas:

- Accurate diagnostic testing for bladder cancer and less invasive monitoring
- Improvements in existing treatments, testing for targeting treatment
- New areas of treatment
- Improving surgical practice
- Improvement, or analysis of, bladder cancer data to provide robust evidence for change
- Awareness within scientific community – both urological and non-urological

There is an opportunity to discuss the eligibility of project ideas in advance of a formal application.

Action Bladder Cancer UK is an NIHR non-commercial Partner

Appropriate research studies funded through ABC UK's eligible funding stream are now automatically eligible for NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) support and therefore entitled to access NHS support via the NIHR Clinical Research Network, provided the study meets the standard NIHR study eligibility criteria.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications should only be submitted on the form downloadable from the website, www.actionbladdercanceruk.org/abc-uk-grants/
- Guidelines given here and within the application form should be followed.
- There is an opportunity to discuss project ideas and to request assistance or mentoring with your application. Please contact us on info@actionbladdercanceruk.org with any questions about your application or the process.
- Projects should contain milestones and demonstrate specific outcomes.
- A reporting timetable will be agreed to provide information on progress of funded projects.

TIMELINE

It is preferred that submitted projects run for a maximum period of 12 months. Consideration will, however, be given to applications justifying a longer period.

08 October 2018	Prior notice marketing and application and mentoring opens
30 November 2018	Call for applications opens
28 February 2019	Deadline for applications and Application Assistance
March/April 2019	Applications review process and Panel Assessment process
30 April 2019	Outcome published; applications and grants: awarded, awarded with amendments or declined.
July 2019 – Jan 2020	Interim Quarterly Reporting
30 April 2020	End Project date (unless otherwise agreed at time of grant) and Final Reporting

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

All applications will be reviewed upon receipt and any clarifications and additional information requested from applicants. Applications will then be reviewed by the ABC UK Grants Panel for final decision. Panel members include representatives from urology, oncology, research, patients, primary and secondary care as appropriate, and include ABC UK trustee/s plus external members.

GRANTS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Grants are not made to individuals. Grants will only be made to an organisation (eg: Urology Unit of NHS Trust, academic, research, primary care, secondary care, professional practice etc). It is advised that bank account details for grant payment are clarified with your organisation as part of your application preparation.

Applications are invited up to £5,000 per project. Exceptionally a maximum amount of £10,000 will be considered. The maximum grant for any one project is £10,000. There is no maximum number of projects, however ABC UK would prefer to fund a higher number of smaller value projects. At least one award will be given in each of the three categories ie: to a nurse led project, a primary care project and Research & Clinical, subject to them meeting our assessment criteria to reflect ABC UK's interest in encouraging these projects.

Grants may be used to cover salary, expenses, consumables, equipment and other costs directly incurred by the project. Funding is not to be used to subsidise the applicant's normal activity. Applicants are expected to submit a fully costed budget with their application.

75% of grant would be payable upon confirmation of grant/start date of research.
25% balance of grant would be payable upon receipt of approved final report.

This final report would be submitted on an ABC UK template provided and be accompanied by a detailed breakdown of grant expenditure. Interim project progress reports would be requested on a quarterly basis. Deliverable milestones should be included within the application and will be agreed with ABC UK.

ABC UK would retain the right to publish the final report both on ABC UK website and in external publications and to publicise by any appropriate means, however we are prepared to discuss on a case by case basis to ensure that journal publication is not prejudiced.

Grant recipient would be expected to acknowledge ABC UK grant funding in any publication or publicity of their own with the following words: "This work has been funded by Action Bladder Cancer UK".

EXCLUSIONS

Projects must be stand-alone. Applications which are part of a larger research project will not be considered unless a discrete project area of activity or workstream can be identified which may be solely accredited to ABC UK grant funding. If you are considering requesting funding for a discrete element of a larger project, it is recommended that you consult ABC UK for advice on this before submission.