

Research Priorities 2018-19

Research Priorities for the SPHeRE Programme are detailed below. This list includes an overview of the research priority area and some suggested research questions.

	Research Priority	Outline
1.	Access to health care	<p><i>This priority area addresses ways to improve access to healthcare, and the impact of initiatives to increase access. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the impact of introducing free universal access to GP services for under 6's and over 70s on the quality and efficiency of primary care in Ireland? 2. What changes to health care access are most likely to reduce health inequalities?
2.	Models of health service delivery	<p><i>This priority area addresses ways to improve the delivery of health care. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the specific barriers to moving chronic care from secondary care settings into the community in Ireland and which chronic condition patient groups are most likely to benefit from shifting to a community based care model? 2. Which institutional care delivery models are most likely to reduce unsafe care practices for patients with dementia?
3.	Implementation of complex interventions	<p><i>This priority area will investigate the factors which facilitate the implementation of interventions with proven effectiveness. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will facilitate the translation of the results of existing chronic illness management RCTs into primary care practice in Ireland? 2. Which strategies are most likely to improve the quality of care for people with mental health conditions?
4.	Behaviour change	<p><i>This priority area will investigate interventions designed to change the behaviours of patients and clinicians. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the impact of interventions to reduce hospital acquired infection such as the WHO hand-washing opportunities programme? 2. What is the effectiveness of brief primary care led interventions to change the top four risk behaviours – diet, exercise, smoking, alcohol?
5.	Economic evaluation of health care services	<p><i>This priority area will investigate the cost effectiveness of a range of interventions. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the cost-effectiveness of under investigated public health interventions in Ireland? 2. Economic evaluation of the long term impact of interventions in young people to improve well-being?

6.	Patient and public involvement	<p><i>This priority area will focus on ways to improve the involvement of patients and the public in health research in Ireland. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the best way to communicate the results of research to participants? 2. How to improve the commitment of funders and researchers to the genuine involvement of patients and the public in the design and conduct of health research in Ireland?
7.	The role of different stakeholders in health system reform	<p><i>This priority area will investigate the role that different stakeholders play in pushing for, and resisting health system reform in Ireland. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the barriers to the implementation of safe staffing models in different care settings? 2. What are the financial incentives that drive under and overuse of effective care in Ireland, and how can these be modified?
8.	Healthy lifestyles	<p><i>This priority area will investigate the lifestyle behaviours underpinning societal health. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying barriers and facilitators to physical activity in Ireland, and interventions that build on this knowledge. 2. What supports do patients need to engage with healthy living?
9.	Health informatics	<p><i>This priority area will focus on the adaptation of information and computer technology to population health and health services research. Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we use health informatics to focus on the health needs of poorer families? 2. Validation of existing surveillance systems for patient safety: how accurate are they?
10.	Community engagement in service design	<p><i>Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we involve frail older people and their carers in the design of integrated care models? 2. How can we involve outpatients in the design of clinic services in acute hospitals?
11.	Social care	<p><i>Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the most effective model for funding and delivering social care packages to vulnerable adolescents? 2. What is the most appropriate social care approach to dementia care in Ireland?
12.	Workforce	<p><i>Sample research questions are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the cost-effectiveness of pharmacist-led care in select chronic conditions? 2. What is the best way to attract healthcare professionals to work in smaller acute hospitals? 3. Emigration of healthcare professional graduates in Ireland - gaining valued international experience or a "brain-drain"?