



**Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India**

**Invitation for Expression of Interest:
Cancer Technical Resource Hub**

Centre for Evidence based Guidelines

Background:

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in collaboration with DoHFW, DGHS, NHSRC and DHR, is formulating a comprehensive set of evidence-based guidelines for the country using a rigorous scientific approach. This process involves compiling systematic reviews and meta-analyses on defined questions, with evidence quality assessed through the GRADE approach, guiding recommendations via the Evidence to Decision (EtD) framework.

The establishment of Technical Resource Hubs is critical to ensuring the quality and consistency of the evidence synthesis and guideline development process in healthcare. Currently, while the Technical Resource Centres (TRCs) provide valuable systematic reviews and evidence profiles, there is a pressing need for a robust review mechanism to ensure that the outputs meet the highest standards of rigor and transparency. The Technical Resource Hubs will be responsible for monitoring and mentoring the systematic review process of the TRCs, including but not limited to, search strategies, search output screening, study selection process, data extraction, data synthesis, quality appraisal; and reviewing the systematic review reports and evidence profiles submitted by the TRCs, thus ensuring the quality and accuracy of the evidence being considered for guidelines.

Given the critical importance of oncology, the DHR will establish a specialized Cancer Guidelines Technical Resource Hub. This Cancer TRH will not only coordinate and validate all cancer-focused systematic reviews and evidence summaries but will also cultivate the expertise of Guideline Development Group (GDG) members. Through tailored workshops and hands-on mentorship, the hub will train GDG members in interpreting tumor-specific evidence, grading the strength and certainty of oncologic data, and applying the GRADE-EtD framework to translate cancer research findings into clear, actionable clinical recommendations

By enhancing TRC skills through regular workshops and aligning all activities with international standards (e.g., GRADE), the network of TRHs will reinforce a transparent, high-quality evidence synthesis and guideline development ecosystem.

Goal:

Establish a dedicated Cancer Technical Resource Hub to oversee and critically appraise all oncology-related systematic reviews and evidence profiles, deliver specialized training and capacity-building for Guideline Development Group members in cancer evidence synthesis and recommendation formulation, and support the seamless development and implementation of high-quality, evidence-based cancer guidelines—thereby strengthening the uptake of best practices in cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care across the health system.

Eligibility Criteria for Technical Resource Hubs:

1. The primary applicant must be an oncologist with active clinical practice and academic credentials in cancer care and research and should have authored at least **four systematic reviews** in PubMed-indexed journals.
2. The Hub must consist of a **dedicated team of at least two faculty members from the same institution**. The team should include a biostatistician, subject experts in different cancers as well as a methodologist.
3. The team member should have **organized or conducted at least three workshops** or training programs on both systematic reviews and GRADE methodology, with at least one of these workshops at the national or international level.
4. **Involvement in Evidence based Guideline Development Panels:** The primary applicant or a team member should be actively involved in a guideline development panel (Eg. WHO, DHR, NICE UK, etc).
5. **Faculty for International Training Programs:** The primary applicant should have experience as faculty/trainer for international training programs focused on guideline development, underscoring their expertise and commitment to advancing evidence-based practices globally.
6. The primary applicant should have **experience in developing evidence-based guidelines** using the GRADE methodology and must include members who have actively participated in national or international guideline development organizations.

Application Process:

- Interested oncologists having regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges with required capability, experience and resources (preferably database access) to undertake the assignment may submit their application through google link.
- The application received will go through a review process by an expert committee constituted by competent authority
- The selected participants will be notified of their selection via email and through the DHR website.

Duration of the funding for TRHs:

The initial term is set for three years, subject to performance reviews, and renewable every year.

Terms and Conditions

- An annual report, along with a statement of expenditure and utilization certificate in the prescribed format, is to be submitted for review and approval. The budget for the subsequent year will be contingent upon the review and approval of the annual report.
- Regular monitoring visits will be conducted, with corrective actions implemented as needed
- Training programs are to be conducted at least thrice a year, and professional development plans are to be updated annually.

Deliverables:

The Technical Resource Hub established for the development of cancer related evidence-based guidelines should ensure clarity and accountability; specific deliverables with stringent deadlines should be established:

1. Monitoring and mentoring the systematic review and evidence synthesis process undertaken by TRCs, to ensure methodological rigor and quality.
2. Critically reviewing evidence profiles generated by TRCs to ensure accuracy, completeness, and adherence to rigorous methodological standards.
3. Conducting workshops on guideline development, including the Evidence to Decision (EtD) framework, to train GDG members on interpreting and applying evidence.
4. Training GDG members on evidence appraisal, interpretation, and translating evidence into actionable recommendations.
5. Collaborating with systematic review teams to develop and refine comprehensive search strategies.
6. Providing continuous guidance and support to systematic review teams throughout all stages of the systematic review and meta-analysis process.
7. Conducting systematic reviews for complex research questions with large volumes of evidence.
8. Development and dissemination of a training materials and toolkits

Submit the Eol through Google form link: <https://forms.gle/keETT3mDK4bmTtXj8>

Last date for submission of Eol: **10th July 2025**

Funding:

Financial support of up to Rs. 70 lakhs per year will be provided per Technical Resource Hub.

For any queries related to the Eol, please contact

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Timeline

| Activities | Date |
|--|----------------------------|
| Release of Call | 19 th June 2025 |
| Last date for submission of proposal (Revised) | 10 th July 2025 |
| Review and selection | Last week of July |