



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

**Expression of Interest
for
Establishing Technical Resource Centres
2026**

Centre for Evidence based Guidelines

Background:

1. The Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has instituted a coordinated and systematic framework for the development of evidence-based guidelines, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and the Department of Health & Family Welfare (DoHFW).
2. Following the Expression of Interest floated in 2024, twenty-seven (27) Technical Resource Centres (TRCs) have been established across the country to support evidence synthesis for guideline development. These TRCs have contributed significantly towards conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses and strengthening the evidence base for national guidelines.
3. With the increasing number of guideline topics being undertaken across diverse priority health areas, there is a growing requirement for additional technical capacity to undertake high-quality systematic reviews and meta-analyses within defined timelines.
4. In view of the above, Expressions of Interest (EoI) are invited from eligible institutions/researchers for establishing additional Technical Resource Centres (TRCs) to augment the existing network and support the expanding guideline development activities.
5. Selected TRCs will be responsible for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses for prioritized review questions (PICOs) and assessing the certainty of evidence using the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation) approach.

Goal:

To expand the national network of Technical Resource Centres for systematic evidence synthesis, thereby strengthening the development and implementation of evidence-based guidelines in India.

Objectives:

- To augment the existing pool of TRCs to meet the increasing demand for evidence synthesis across priority health areas.
- To conduct high-quality systematic reviews and meta-analyses using standardized methodologies, including the GRADE approach.
- To build capacity in evidence synthesis through training, mentoring, and knowledge dissemination.
- To ensure timely availability of evidence to support guideline development processes.

Criteria for Establishment of Technical Resource Centres (TRCs)

Technical Resource Centres should demonstrate strong capability in evidence synthesis, including the ability to undertake systematic reviews within defined timelines and apply GRADE methodology. The Centres should have the necessary infrastructure, human resources, and institutional commitment to contribute effectively to national guideline development efforts. Only one TRC shall be established per department to ensure wider institutional representation and optimal distribution of resources. Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating diverse and under-represented subject expertise, particularly in domains not adequately covered by the existing network of TRCs.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The researcher/faculty and their teams must demonstrate substantial experience in conducting systematic reviews, with at least four published systematic reviews as the first or corresponding author in indexed journals.
2. Primary applicant should have organized/conducted a minimum of two workshops on systematic reviews and/or GRADE methodology, showcasing their expertise in both evidence synthesis and the application of GRADE.
3. The Principal Investigator (PI) shall designate a Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) in the application, who must be a permanent/regular faculty member from the same institution as the PI.

Application Process:

- Interested Researchers/ faculty/scientists 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 through the online application portal.
- Applications will be evaluated based on predefined criteria through a structured scoring system by an expert committee constituted by competent authority
- The selected participants will be notified of their selection via email and through the DHR website in July 2026

Funding: Financial support up to Rs. 16.5 Lakhs per year will be provided per TRC (as per existing norms), subject to satisfactory performance and fulfilment of deliverables.

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 twice a year, and professional development plans are to be updated annually.

- The performance of each TRC will be periodically reviewed based on predefined indicators including timeliness, quality of outputs, and adherence to methodological standards.
- Non-performing TRCs may be discontinued/terminated at any stage with prior intimation, based on review findings and recommendations of the competent authority.

Deliverables:

The Technical Resource Centres established for evidence synthesis should ensure clarity and accountability; specific deliverables with stringent deadlines should be established:

- Detailed technical protocol for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses outlining the step-by-step procedures for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses. This document should provide a comprehensive guide for the entire process, from formulating research questions to synthesizing and interpreting the results.
- Provide grading of the evidence profiles, summarizing the key findings of the systematic reviews. Include ratings of the certainty of evidence for each outcome, incorporating GRADE's four levels: high, moderate, low, or very low.
- Completion of a specified number of systematic reviews and meta-analyses annually as per the request of the secretariat
- Conducting training sessions and workshops on evidence synthesis methodologies
- Regular publication of synthesized evidence in reputable peer-reviewed journals
- Annual progress reports and a comprehensive report are to be submitted
- Presentation of the review findings at the expert group meeting (and participation in any pre-meetings or online webinars).

For any queries related to the call, please contact

Dr. Tushar Karmarkar
 Deputy Secretary
 Department of Health Research
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Link to apply <https://forms.gle/Rq3BJkUTrZq7Zu3a8>

Tentative Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	13-May-2026
Last date for submission of proposal	12-June-2026 (17:00hrs)
Review and selection	July-2026