***‘Accessibility of palliative care medications for people on virtual wards’***

**Marie Curie Commissioned Research Project Application Form**

Everyone will be affected by dying, death and bereavement and deserves the best possible experience, reflecting what’s most important to them. Marie Curie will lead in end of life experience to make this happen.

The aim of this commissioned project is **to improve our understanding of healthcare professionals’ experiences of access (and the factors hindering and enabling access) to medications for people who may be in the final year of life admitted to virtual wards** (also known as hospital at home services).

We do not wish to prescribe a particular approach to completing this project, however we would particularly welcome applications which gather healthcare professionals’ experience of the following:

* the extent to which people on virtual wards across the UK have access to the medicines that they need in their final year of life, and if/ how this might vary by factors, such as (but not limited to) location and particular medications or classes of medications (**necessary**)
* the consequences of people on virtual wards not having access to the medicines that they need (**necessary**)
* the facilitators and barriers to accessing medications. This should include consideration of, but not limited to, regulatory requirements for controlled drugs, differences in drug tariff costs between hospital and community pharmacy, electronic prescribing systems and mechanisms for transporting medications ***(necessary)***
* proposals/solutions for how barriers might be overcome *(****necessary****)* and examples of good practice from across the UK (***desirable****)*
* the ways in which experiences vary between healthcare professionals on different types of virtual wards eg Palliative and End of Life Care, Frailty, Cardiovascular, COPD, General ***(desirable)***

The details of the methodology used will be up to the applicant/s and will be reviewed by peer-reviewers who will comment on the feasibility of a particular approach in achieving the aims of the project.

Outputs should include data tables and/or quotes from participants, a short write up of methodology and key findings, and recommendations for future practice/policy. The researchers should also include time to be involved in communicating findings to key audiences.

Up to £50K (inclusive of VAT, if applicable) is available for this work, depending upon the scope and scale of the plans to be delivered.

We would encourage interested applicants to get in touch with the commissioning team (via research.grants@mariecurie.org.uk) for an early, informal conversation about their proposal prior to applying.

**Key dates:**

Application deadline:10 am Monday 27th January 2025

Peer review: February 2025

Commissioning decision: February/March 2025

Project start: by May 2025

Duration: 12 months

Please complete in Arial, font size 11, and forward the completed application form (saved as a Word document under your full name) to research.grants@mariecurie.org.uk

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| 1. **Lead Applicant**
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| Title |  |
| First name |  |
| Surname |  |
| Organisation name  |  |
| Work address |  |
| Email address |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Current job title |  |

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| **2. Project** |
| Project title |  |
| Project duration |  |
| Proposed start date | Click or tap to enter a date. |

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| **3. Abstracts** |
| Lay abstract: Please write a lay abstract understandable to the general public. It is vitally important to describe the work you plan to do in clear language (250 words) |
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| **Word count** |  |
| Scientific abstract: Please write a scientific abstract (400 words) |
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| **Word count** |  |

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| **4. Ethical approval** |
| Will this study require research ethics approval? (*delete as appropriate)*  | Yes/No |
| If yes, have you applied for ethics approval and where? |  |
| If you have not yet applied, please confirm when you will apply and to where? |  |
| If ethics is not required please specify why |  |

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| **5. Research sponsor (if relevant)***Please provide details of the organisation that has agreed to be the Research Sponsor of this project in accordance with the terms of the UK’s research governance framework. Please refer to Marie Curie Research Governance Policy for information relating to the role and responsibilities of Research Sponsors* |
| Name of organisation acting as research sponsor |  |
| Name of contact within organisation  |  |
| Address |  |
| Telephone or mobile |  |
| Email |  |

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| **6. Finance summary** *(Please see brief at the top of this document for the maximum amount available for this work).* |
| **List of costs:** |
| Item  | Amount |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
| **Justification of costs** (please provide a justification for all costs listed above): |

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| **What is the total project cost?** |
| £0.00 |

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| **7. Research Team**  |
| Lead applicant Name |  |
| Position and organisation |  |
| Role in this project  |  |
| Address |  |
| Email |  |
| Joint lead applicant (if applicable) |
| Joint lead applicant Name |  |
| Position and organisation |  |
| Role in this project  |  |
| Address |  |
| Email |  |
| For additional team members please list on a separate sheet and attach this when submitting your application. |

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| **8. Acceptance of regulations and conditions**  |
| * I/We have read the guidance provided and the [Marie Curie Research Grant Terms and Conditions](https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/research/grants/marie-curie-research-grants-terms-and-conditions-5-feb-21-final.pdf)
* I/We shall be actively engaged in, and in day-to-day control of, the project.
* I/we agree to work with representatives from the Marie Curie policy and research teams in the development,

undertaking and dissemination of the project.  |
| Signature of **Lead** **Applicant** (electronic signatures are accepted) |  |
| Name |  |
| Date |  |
| Signature of **joint Lead Applicant** if applicable(electronic signatures are accepted) |  |
| Name |  |
| Date |  |

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| **9. Research Proposal (no more than 8 pages)** |
| Background and rationale (please refer to previous systematic reviews where appropriate)  |  |
| Research aims and objectives |  |
| Methodology and analysis plan(including recruitment and eligibility criteria if applicable) |  |
| Anticipated outputs and pathways to impact (this section can be completed in consultation with Marie Curie) |  |
| Project management approach -How will you ensure that all milestones are met and outputs delivered?  |  |
| Marie Curie is committed to being a diverse and inclusive charity that is accessible to all. We want the research we fund to reflect this commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. Please explain in this section how your proposed research could help to understand and address inequities related to any of the characteristics that the Equality Act 2010 protects. Please also consider other characteristics beyond those protected through the Equality Act, such as socioeconomic status, low literacy, impaired capacity to consent, diagnosis, etc, which could drive inequities in palliative and end of life care. |  |
| The active engagement of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) principles and processes in all stages of research is a requirement for funding from Marie Curie. It is vitally important that applicants consider from the outset how to most effectively and meaningfully involve people with lived experience of the issues that are the focus of the project in the development and delivery of the proposed research. Ensuring that this involvement includes a diversity of voices is a key component of that; inclusive PPI can help inform an inclusive research study. Please use this section to describe how your project addresses this requirement.  |  |
| Project timetable | Please include as an appendix. |
| References  |  |

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| **9.** **Curriculum Vitae – applicant**  |
| Curriculum Vitae to be completed by the Lead Applicant |
| Title: | Forename/Initials: | Surname:  |
| Qualifications: |
| Professional registration (if appropriate): |
| Present appointment(s): |
| Start date for present appointment(s): |
| Address:  |
| Telephone number:  | Email address:  |
| Previous and other appointments: |
| Recent relevant publications: |
| **10. Other members of the research team Curriculum Vitae – if applicable**  |
| Curriculum Vitae of the Joint Lead Applicant and other members of the research team (please copy and paste this template below as needed)  |
| Title: | Forename/Initials: | Surname:  |
| Qualifications: |
| Professional registration (if appropriate) |
| Present appointment(s): |
| Start date for present appointment(s): |
| Address:  |
| Telephone number:  | Email address:  |
| Previous and other appointments: |
| Recent relevant publications: |