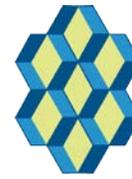


2013 Knowledge Synthesis Grant Program

Call for Applications

Program Guidelines



Technology
Evaluation
IN THE ELDERLY™
*Informing health care choices
for an aging population*

Overview

Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network (TVN or the Network) is a new network funded by the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence Program (NCE) as of July 1, 2012 to improve health care for the seriously ill elderly and their families and caregivers.

TVN invites qualified researchers to submit proposals for **knowledge synthesis** in the following areas:

- Patient/family reported experience measures (PREMs) and Patient reported/directed outcome measures (PROMs) in acute care settings
- Quality indicators for the care of the sick elderly at the individual, institutional and system level
- Use of technology to facilitate transitions of care
- Utility of advance care planning (ACP), and tools for use in ACP, including information technology (IT) tools
- Strategies for patient/family and caregiver engagement in the health care system
- Methods, including nutrition and rehabilitation, to maintain and restore function in seriously ill, elderly patients

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support teams of researchers and knowledge users to produce knowledge syntheses and scoping reviews that will contribute to the use of synthesized evidence in decision-making and practice.

The **specific objectives** of this funding opportunity are to summarize existing knowledge from the literature to:

1. Guide future research priorities of the Network
2. Develop reports, brochures and tools where appropriate for Network knowledge translation activities.

Funds Available

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$500,000, enough to fund up to ten grants. The maximum amount for a grant is \$50,000 for up to nine months. This funding is non-renewable.

Applications are due September 1, 2013 at midnight EDT. Applications will be reviewed by the Network's Research Management Committee (RMC) for alignment, priority and fit with the

Network's mandate and strategic goals. Successful applicants will be informed by October 1, 2013 and will start to receive funding installments in October 2013.

Interested parties are encouraged to view the Network's website (www.tvn-nce.ca) for more information and for the application forms.

About Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network (TVN)

Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network is a member of the federal [Networks of Centres of Excellence \(NCE\) Program](#). TVN was selected for NCE funding in December 2011 and launched as a Network on July 1, 2012.

TVN Mission

To improve the care of seriously ill, elderly patients and support their families and caregivers.

TVN will strive to achieve its mission through:

- Fostering globally recognized research excellence related to the use of health care technology in seriously ill elderly patients and their families.
- Expediting the translation of research evidence into best practices for the care of seriously ill elderly patients and their families by facilitating increased use of research evidence by key stakeholders.
- Supporting productive partnerships and collaborations among all stakeholders.
- Training the next generation of highly qualified personnel capable of developing, evaluating and implementing health care technologies in this population.

TVN Vision

To position Canada as a global leader in providing the highest quality of care for its aging population.

Definition of Technology

TVN utilizes a comprehensive definition of technology from basic to advanced that includes any drug, device, knowledge product, improvement strategy or tool used in the diagnosis, treatment or palliation of our population of interest.

Scope of Population

We focus on older Canadians who have significant life-limiting illnesses where there is a question of what technology to apply to improve their survival and quality of life or the quality of their deaths, including end-of-life care. We focus on the sickest of the sick, the frail elderly with multiple chronic conditions, as well as across all settings of care, from acute and critical care to community care. We use a family centric model of care, including the patient's family and informal caregivers.

Strategic Priorities

1. Matching Care to Values
 - Developing an ethical framework for understanding and researching issues of care for this vulnerable population
 - Evaluating the 'moral distress' in patients, families, caregivers and health professionals
2. Empower, engage and support patients and families/caregivers
 - Strategies for patient engagement and shared decision making
 - Tools for advance care planning and patient decision-making
 - Communication between patients, families/caregivers and health professionals
3. Improving clinical care
 - Improving and maintaining function in the frail elderly
 - Quality indicators for the care of the sick elderly at the individual, institutional and system level
 - Appropriate use of technology in treatment and end of life care
4. Improving Care across the Continuum
 - Provision of care in the most appropriate setting
 - Ensuring successful transitions of care
 - Development of a patient navigator role to aid in managing a patient and family's voyage through the system
 - Communication between healthcare professionals
 - Health system level change

Synthesis Grants

All forms of knowledge synthesis are eligible including systematic reviews, scoping reviews, meta-analyses and meta-syntheses. These reports may synthesize results from quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research. All reports in this funding opportunity must systematically assemble, analyze and summarize existing data, including a critical appraisal of the research in the targeted area.

Scope of Work

The knowledge synthesis should focus on one of the following areas:

- Patient/family reported experience measures (PREMs) and Patient reported/directed outcome measures (PROMs) in acute care settings
- Quality indicators for the care of the seriously ill elderly at the individual, institutional and system level
- Use of technology to smooth transitions of care
- Utility of advance care planning, and tools for use in ACP

- Strategies for patient/family and caregiver engagement in the health care system
- Methods, including nutrition and rehabilitation, to maintain and restore function in seriously ill, elderly patients

Target Audiences

The audiences for this knowledge synthesis would be researchers, knowledge users, policy makers, patients and families and the public.

Deliverables

The main deliverable will be a comprehensive knowledge synthesis of the best evidence from Canadian and international literature. This should include gray literature searches where appropriate. The final report should consist of a summary of key messages, an executive summary, a lay summary and a report of no more than 25 pages (excluding references).

Budget and Duration

The total amount available for this call is \$500,000. Proposals will be funded to a maximum of \$50,000. A preliminary report is due within six (6) months of receiving the funding and the final report should be submitted within nine (9) months of receiving the funding.

Eligibility Requirements

To submit a proposal, principal investigators requesting funding must be eligible to receive grant funding from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC. There can be more than one principal investigator per project. The successful investigators will have strong academic credentials, a credible team and the ability to publish in academic peer reviewed journals. Project co-investigators and collaborators (those not requesting Network funding) do not need to be eligible for CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC funding. Any person can participate in more than one application, but may only be a principal investigator on one application.

For an application to be eligible, proposals must include a knowledge user as part of the team.

In order to receive funds, successful principal investigators must execute a standard Network Agreement, through which they will become a member of the Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network, and take on all of the associated rights and obligations. These obligations include the requirement to provide the Network's Administrative Centre with project reports as requested.

Successful principal investigators will also need to adhere to the Network's Conflict of Interest Policy and Conflict of Interest Guidelines, and submit a Conflict of Interest Declaration Form.

Partner Participation

One of the TVN's goals is to support productive partnerships and collaborations among all stakeholders as the Network recognizes that networking and partnership arrangements are

critical to the successful realization of its vision and mission. Increased partnerships are the key to addressing better care for our aging population through knowledge creation and knowledge translation and mobilization activities addressed in a multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral manner.

TVN is dedicated to identifying and developing collaborations with other organizations and stakeholders to enhance the availability of funding (either cash or in kind) and to create opportunities for knowledge exchange and translation. The Network encourages its researchers to explore partnership opportunities with a wide range of potential public and private sector organizations. Applications including partnerships with relevant partner organizations will be welcome and considered more favorably than those that do not bring additional partners to the Network.

Highly Qualified Personnel

One of the Network's goals is to train the next generation of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) capable of developing, evaluating and implementing health care technologies in the seriously ill elderly.

The Network encourages Network researchers to include HQP in their projects, particularly trainees from traditionally under-represented disciplines within the network. Applications including HQP will be welcome and considered more favorably than those that do not bring HQP to the network. HQP will be encouraged to participate in elements of the TVN Training Program.

How to Apply

Applicants are requested to submit their proposal electronically by the deadline to apply@tvn-nce.ca. Proposals must be in the format designated in the Application Instructions.

A complete proposal is comprised of:

1. An application (Refer to the [Application Instructions](#) for detailed instructions and format.)
2. Detailed Budget (Consult the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#) for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.)
3. CVs of team members
4. Required signatures

The [application instructions](#), [application form](#), [budget template](#), and a [signature template](#) can be found at: www.tvn-nce.ca.

Recommendations

We strongly recommend that each team includes:

- an expert in the content area covered by the synthesis;

- a knowledge user, which may include organizations, policy makers, and patients, family members and informal caregivers;
- an expert in synthesis methods; and
- an information scientist/librarian.

Proposal Application and Evaluation Process

Application Process

1. Completed applications must be received at the Network's Administrative Centre by the deadline of midnight EDT on September 1, 2013 to be eligible for consideration. Applications should be sent electronically to apply@tvn-nce.ca.
2. Proposals will be reviewed by the TVN's Research Management Committee (RMC). The Research Management Committee will make recommendations to the TVN's Board of Directors for funding based on its review. All review processes are subject to TVN's [proposal review conflict of interest policy](#).
3. After Board approval, the Executive Director of TVN will send out a Notification of Award letter with a copy of the Network Agreement and form for Acceptance of Award including agreement to make revisions to the proposal, if requested, as well as the Network's Agreement Researcher Acknowledgement form – an appendix within the Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network Agreement. In addition, each university to which TVN's research funding will flow is required to sign the Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network Agreement before funds are issued. Network Investigators must also abide by the TVN's Conflict of Interest Policy and Guidelines, and complete the Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (view the Policy, Guidelines and Form online at www.tvn-nce.ca). The reporting process for successful applicants is also specified as part of the award.
4. Funding payments will commence in October 2013 or when signed forms are returned and all agreements have been signed. Funds will be distributed in three installments, at the commencement of the award, at six months with the presentation of a preliminary report, and at 9 months with the acceptance of the final report. Award recipients must comply with all reporting requirements or they will not receive subsequent installments.
5. In the event that investigators have not performed to standard or delivered on stated project goals, termination of funding will be considered by the RMC, and sent to the Network's Board for approval.

Evaluation Criteria

The criteria by which the Network's funds will be awarded are as follows:

Scientific Excellence

- Research project would likely be recognized nationally and globally for excellence
- Demonstrated understanding of the needs and the scope of work and anticipates challenges
- Appropriate and rigorous proposed methodology
- Creativity in addressing anticipated challenges
- Clear outline of proposed methods for the review of evidence, including methods for identifying, selecting and appraising peer reviewed literature and grey literature, as well as methods for consulting with relevant stakeholders where appropriate
- Comprehensive work plan and reasonable time-frame

Research Team Capacity and Strength

- Knowledge user(s) on research team (e.g. patients/families, policy makers, practitioners)
- Track record of the applicant(s) in terms of research synthesis and knowledge translation
- Experience and capacity to complete the project
- Relevant recent research of the applicant(s)
- Representation on the research team from more than one of CIHR, SSHRC and NSERC

Relevance to the TVN's Mission and Priorities

- Extent proposal responds to objectives of the funding opportunity
- Effectively assists the Network in achieving its impact statements
- Excellent fit with strategic research priorities

Strength of Networking and Partnerships

- Meaningfully engages multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary researchers, partners, stakeholders, and industry where appropriate
- Offers opportunities for networking and collaboration between the Network and its stakeholders
- Has in-kind or cash contributions from NCE eligible partners¹

Contribution to Development of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP)

- HQP will likely have the opportunity to network with experts from diverse disciplines and sectors
- Opportunities will be created for HQP from traditionally underrepresented sectors or disciplines

¹ NCE Eligible Partners include corporations, not-for profit organizations, and government, but exclude the following Federal funds: Granting Councils (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC), CFI, other NCEs or CECRs, Genome Canada.

Acknowledgment of Funding

Funding recipients are required to acknowledge Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network in any communication or publication related to the project. Details will be provided in the Notification of Award letter.

Contact for Further Information

For general questions about the Network's Request for Applications, please contact:

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Technology Evaluation IN THE ELDERLY™
Informing health care choices for an aging population

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