

Find out more

The Unit has a website: www.nmahp-ru.ac.uk Here you can find details on all our recent research projects and publications and keep up to date with our regular news feeds.

Further websites support the dissemination of specific projects:

Database of Research in Stroke (DORIS: www.askdoris.org) aims to promote evidence based stroke rehabilitation. This is achieved by constructing a database of international stroke associated trials which can then be interrogated to answer new research questions or answer existing research questions more effectively.

Framework for Measuring Impact (www.measuringimpact.org/) is a decision making framework designed to help allied health professionals select and use appropriate outcome measures to demonstrate the impact of their practice. Measuring impact helps you to demonstrate the effectiveness of your practice, the efficiency of your service, and the degree of person centred care that you are providing. Being able to demonstrate each of these factors is central to delivering a quality service.

The PRagmatic-Explanatory Continuum Indicator Summary – PRECIS-2 (www.PRECIS-2.org) helps people developing trials to carefully consider the impact their design decisions have on the end user of the study results. Using the PRECIS-2 tool is likely to help researchers to design and deliver better quality studies and reduce research waste by producing results that are easier for funders, healthcare professionals and patients to use in routine care.

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www.nmahp-ru.ac.uk

Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit



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nmahp-ru
Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit

Improving health through research

Unit Background:

The Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit (NMAHP RU) is a multidisciplinary national research unit, funded by the Scottish Government Health Directorate Chief Scientist Office (CSO). It has academic bases within Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Stirling.

Vision and objectives:

- To conduct high quality applied research that enables Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals to make a difference to the lives of the people of Scotland and beyond.
- To work with and enable the NHS and policy makers to identify effective and sustainable policies and interventions to impact on health and social care.
- To maintain a highly supportive multidisciplinary environment and expand research capacity and capability across the professions to deliver the NMAHP researchers and research leaders of tomorrow.
- To be an internationally renowned and innovative Centre of Excellence for NMAHP Health and Social Care Research.

Working with others:

We work collaboratively with academic and clinical colleagues across Scotland and internationally to enable us to optimise the valuable outputs we produce.

The unit is committed to engaging and re-engaging practitioners in research to improve and develop Scotland's Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional research capacity. We do this through supporting PhD studentship applications and through administering a nationally funded scheme for clinical re-engagement research fellowships.

We work closely with the health service, service users/ patients and policy makers to improve the evidence base for interventions in NMAHP practice and the quality of care that NMAHPs deliver.

Research Programmes:

NMAHP RU focuses its activity on two strong programmes of research that will impact on NMAHP practice and benefit patient and population health.

Interventions: Work within this programme clusters around research on fundamental care and therapy interventions, and methodological innovation. The programme focuses on interventions that affect many people, and/or interventions which have the potential to demonstrate substantial impact on patients' health and wellbeing. We evaluate the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of care and therapeutic interventions.

Quality and Delivery of Care: This programme is concerned with the quality and delivery of care including the up-take and use of evidence based interventions and care delivery practices. It focuses on who delivers care; where and how it is delivered; and how to improve clinical effectiveness and professional practice. The processes by which professionals and patients make decisions about care are central elements of this programme, alongside patient experience and patient involvement.

These two programmes of research enable the Unit to respond to and address a wide range of health care and clinical problems. The Interventions programme supports research that **generates and evaluates potential solutions**. The Quality & Delivery of Care programme focuses on **identifying problems and variation in quality and delivery** and understanding why they occur. It concerns understanding the **behavioural** (patient and practitioner) and organisational influences on care delivery and uptake of best practice. It also researches the **implementation and translation** of evidence based solutions into practice, along with further examination of models of delivery of care.

Although the Unit addresses many clinical areas much of our work is currently focused on stroke, mental health, maternal & child health, urogenital disorders, cancer, and pre-hospital emergency care.

Our skills:

The NMAHP RU is a multi-disciplinary research unit comprising over 60 academics, researchers and support staff. This includes representatives from Nursing, Midwifery, and Allied Health Professional disciplines including occupational therapy, prosthetics, physiotherapy, optometry, and speech and language therapy. In the social sciences we currently cover the disciplines of sociology, psychology, and anthropology. We also have statisticians contributing to our work in intervention trials and data linkage/epidemiological work, along with high level qualitative skill sets and systematic reviewers.

We have 8 Professorial research leads covering Nursing, Midwifery, AHPs and Primary Care.

The Unit has developed a critical mass of **NMAHP Trialists** to support methodological developments in randomised controlled trials, including economic evaluation, of complex interventions relevant to the nursing, midwifery or allied health professions. Our trials are supported by the:

- **Trial Management Group:** consists of highly experienced trial managers and researchers
- **Quantitative Methods Group:** consists of experienced statisticians and data analysts
- **Qualitative Trialists:** researchers who use their qualitative skills to support the development of interventions; understanding of trial implementation; and understanding of trial outcomes.

The Unit is also developing expertise in **Implementation Science** to provide robust research evidence of which strategies work to facilitate implementation of evidence based healthcare in a safe and effective way, reaching the intended target audience and maintaining the outcomes demonstrated in controlled trials.