

HRAP – specific subjects of interest in 2025

As stated on [our website](#), in general we ask that applicants for healthcare research projects and studentship grants should be able to demonstrate that their proposed study will inform and expand the NICE Guideline [Motor Neurone Disease: Assessment and Management](#) through identification of knowledge gaps and/or generation of a more robust knowledge base, strengthening the case for statutory funding of high-quality MND care.

In 2025, we are also highlighting three specific areas where we would particularly welcome applications.

For these areas, proposals utilising a traditional research methodology, or proposals with a robust real-world evaluation approach are welcome.

Subject focus: Pain management in MND

We are interested in a research project focussed on pain in MND which addresses these three following points:

1. explores prevalence of pain in MND and confirms how to effectively assess pain in people living with MND (plwMND),
2. confirms the effectiveness of pharmacological and non-pharmacological responses to different types of pain in MND,
3. and develops a management pathway to inform best practice when discussing and agreeing an appropriate course of action.

Subject focus: Exercise and MND

We are interested in a project which addresses these three following points:

1. explores the wider benefits of exercise eg psychological well-being, identity, maintenance of mobility, activities of daily living and comfort,
2. helps health and social care professionals to answer, with evidence, the questions often posed by plwMND, (eg can I continue my sport/exercise or will it worsen my MND; will it work to regain my muscles; will it delay progression; will it preserve function?) to support self-management by plwMND,
3. and produces an informed guide for health and social care professionals to help them judiciously advise their patients on appropriate and effective exercise.

Subject focus: Cognitive deficits, behavioural symptoms, and prognostic indication

We are interested in a project which:

1. investigates cognitive and behavioural symptoms as a prognostic indicator with a view to explore these as part of the work to establish a UK validated prognostic tool.

We are interested in a project which

1. investigates how cognitive and/or behavioural assessments are best used in clinical practice,
2. how often should they be repeated,
3. and what is the impact of using them on care for the patient, and their carers?