



Research Resources


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These resources have been identified as useful by the BAHT clinical evidence committee who will endeavour to keep all the links up to date. Not all the information you can access via the websites is checked so please use your judgement when you choose the resources you need

Keeping up to Date

Hand therapy relevant evidence updates that you can sign up to:






 <p>University of Nottingham UK CHINA MALAYSIA</p>	<p>The Centre for Evidence Based Hand Surgery (Nottingham) have recently launched the HandsRev database. This is a listing of systematic reviews relevant to hand surgery (and hand therapy). An excellent resource and great place to start when looking for the latest evidence. https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/cebhs/index.aspx</p>
<p>NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence</p>	<p>NICE provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care, with resources to help maximise use of evidence and guidance: https://www.nice.org.uk/news/nice-newsletters-and-alerts</p>
<p>RSTN Reconstructive Surgery Trials Network</p>	<p>The RSTN is the clinical trials network for plastic surgery and hand surgery in the UK. It is part of the Royal College of Surgeons clinical trials initiative and is supported by BAPRAS and BSSH. http://reconstructivesurgerytrials.net</p>

Organisations Offering General Research Tips




	<p>MRC support research across the entire spectrum of medical sciences in the UK and overseas. Insight is a carefully moderated blog for medical researchers that provides a steady stream of fascinating high-quality articles.</p> <p>http://www.insight.mrc.ac.uk/</p>
	<p>Listening to patients' experiences of their care – and to the views of the NHS staff who provide it – plays a crucial part in delivering services that are safe, effective and continuously improving. Insight comes from a combination of sources to understand a number of different issues and can tell us things that other performance data cannot, particularly about how people feel about hugely important issues such as dignity, compassion and respect.</p> <p>NHS England has set up a network of people interested in insight work across the NHS to improve awareness, information sharing and expertise. If you work in this field and want to join the network, or if you have any other queries about their work, please contact the Insight & Feedback Team at england.insightQueries@nhs.net.</p> <p>http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/insight</p>
	<p>A network for students interested in evidence-based healthcare, links to resources to educate students/clinicians.</p> <p>http://students4bestevidence.net</p>
 	<p>Signing up to bulletins from the CSP & BAHT can also be a good way to keep up to date or link with others, as can using Twitter and following others with the same interests as you professionally, or following organisations e.g. NIHR, Cochrane, NICE.</p>

Literature Review

Tools to support critical appraisal

	<p>The tool you use will depend on the type of research method used, if there is no specific tool for the type of study, look at the guidelines in planning research (equator site) to determine if the guidelines have been followed. An easy place to start for appraisal tools is looking at the critical appraisal skills website: http://www.casp-uk.net/appraising-the-evidence</p> <p>This site has set of eight critical appraisal tools for: Systematic Reviews, Randomised Controlled Trials, Cohort Studies, Case Control Studies, Economic Evaluations, Diagnostic Studies, Qualitative studies and Clinical Prediction Rule. The site also has a brief summary of these different research methods to guide you.</p>
	<p>The centre for evidence-based medicine in Oxford also has resources for appraisal</p> <p>http://www.cebm.net/critical-appraisal/</p>
	<p>See the planning research section if you want guidance on how to carry out a literature review and publish it – PRISMA statement gives guidelines on report and conduct of systematic reviews http://www.prisma-statement.org/PRISMAStatement/Default.aspx</p>
	<p>Also look at the Cochrane collaboration and the centre for reviews and dissemination for specific information of Cochrane reviews/reviewing</p> <p>http://training.cochrane.org/handbook</p>
	<p>CRD at York produces policy relevant research and methods to advance the use of research evidence to improve population health. PROSPERO is their prospective database of systematic reviews https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/.</p> <p>If you plan to conduct a systematic review, you should also register your protocol here: https://www.york.ac.uk/crd/</p>
	<p>The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) aims to improve the quality of health care for patients in Scotland by reducing variation in practice and outcome, through the development and dissemination of national clinical guidelines containing recommendations for effective practice based on current evidence.</p> <p>http://www.sign.ac.uk/checklists-and-notes.html</p>

Outcome Measures

	<p>The COMET website helps to identify outcomes which can be used in relevant areas of health care. http://www.comet-initiative.org/</p>
	<p>The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) is a non-profit organisation. Their aim is to transform health care systems worldwide by measuring and reporting patient outcomes in a standardised way. As yet they have not looked at upper limb musculoskeletal conditions, but this should happen. http://www.ichom.org/</p>
	<p>The COSMIN initiative aims to improve the selection of health measurement instruments. As part of this initiative, the COSMIN group developed a critical appraisal tool (a checklist) containing standards for evaluating the methodological quality of studies on the measurement properties of health measurement instruments. http://www.cosmin.nl/</p>

Developing a Library of Articles and References

Finding and organising literature to review is time consuming, the clinical librarian will help you perform structured literature searches, access books and journal articles and give you information on referencing software. You may find your trust has a subscription to a particular package that you can use e.g. RefWorks, Endnote, Mendeley (the latter is a free package, but the others require paid subscription).

Research Networks





If you are, or want to be, research active come to conference and meet other hand therapists who are interested in the same topics, and keep an eye on the BAHT news and e-bulletins, when academics seek the input of hand therapists we will post them and ask for expressions of interest BAHT CEC also keep a database of research projects for which members have requested BAHT support e.g. advertise a survey, this can be used to put you in touch with hand therapists with the same research interest or to avoid duplication of projects.

Other networks are listed below:

	<p>RRIO (Oxford) https://rehabresearch.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/link-with-us</p>
	<p>Chain (online international network for people working in health and social care) http://www.chain-network.org.uk/</p>
	<p>The aims of the Council for Allied Health Professions Research (CAHPR) are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop AHP research 2. Strengthen evidence of the profession's value and impact for enhancing service user and community care 3. Enable the professions to speak with one voice on research issues thereby raising their profile and increasing their influence. <p>There are local hubs across the country, check out what's going on in your area: https://cahpr.csp.org.uk/</p>

Planning Research

It's worth stating that it's important at the initial stages of a project to consider how it links with the research priorities for your profession, hand therapy, hand surgery and the NHS 5 year forward view; and that it is shown to have been informed by clinical as well as patient and public priorities as this will support your efforts to get funding.

 <p>James Lind Alliance BSSH The British Society for Surgery of the Hand Priority Setting Partnerships</p>	<p>http://www.bssh.ac.uk/patients/bssh_james_lind_alliance_partnership.aspx</p>
 <p>Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Jan Lin Alli Priority Setting Partnership</p>	<p>http://www.csp.org.uk/professional-union/research/james-lind-alliance-physiotherapy-priority-setting-partnership</p>
 <p>Royal College of Occupational Therapists</p>	<p>https://stage2.cot.co.uk/uk-ot-research-foundation-ukotrf/ukotrf-research-priorities</p> <p>https://www.rcot.co.uk/news-and-events/awards-and-funding/ukotrf-research-grants</p>
 <p>NHS England 70 YEARS OF THE NHS 1948 - 2018</p>	<p>https://www.england.nhs.uk/five-year-forward-view</p>
 <p>INVOLVE</p>	<p>INVOLVE was established in 1996 and is part of, and funded by, the National Institute for Health Research, to support active public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. As a national advisory group our role is to bring together expertise, insight and experience in the field of public involvement in research, with the aim of advancing it as an essential part of the process by which research is identified, prioritised, designed, conducted and disseminated.</p> <p>A free online e-module is available for patient public and researcher training on PPI</p> <p>http://www.invo.org.uk/resource-centre/learning-and-development/public-reviewing-with-the-national-institute-for-health-research-nihr/</p>

General Guidance on Research Methods

	<p>For support in research methods the Equator Network is excellent, it stands for- Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of Health Research. Here you can find guidelines on writing research which can also guide in you in reviewing and planning research, particularly understanding the different research methods that could be used. They have downloads of reporting standards for:</p> <p>Randomised trials, observational studies, systematic reviews, case reports, qualitative research, diagnostic or prognostic studies, economic evaluations & writing study protocols. The site will also guide you as to which standard you might need.</p> <p>https://www.equator-network.org/</p>
	<p>SPIRIT 2013 explanation and elaboration, provides guidance for writing protocols for clinical trials</p> <p>http://www.spirit-statement.org/</p>
	<p>HQIP website - free to use education packages on subjects related to clinical audit and to healthcare quality improvement in general.</p> <p>https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/elearning-area/#.XEBqb_Z2uXY</p>

Questionnaires and surveys are not covered by the Equator network but as well as information in research methods textbooks, the links below give some good tips on using and developing surveys & questionnaires. Be aware that although surveys seem to be a quick way of generating data, they are not always the best way to answer a research question about best practice or achieve a consensus from experts.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/insight/insight-resources/>




<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/lets/strategy/resources/evaluate/general/methods-collection/questionnaire>

<https://www.coursehero.com/file/13429975/12-Surveys-and-Questionnaires-Revision-2009/>



Local / Specific Research Contacts

Research and Development departments in NHS Trusts always legally need to be involved for research conducted in that Trust. They should provide support and guidance for the process of writing research proposals, statistical support, ethical approval or setting up a study. They can also help you decide if your proposed idea would be research/ audit or service evaluation and a good link for determining the difference can be found on the Health Research Authority (HRA) site, which

more generally deals with research approval/ ethics and improving NHS England research:
<http://www.hra.nhs.uk/documents/2016/06/defining-research.pdf>

 <p>National Institute for Health Research</p>	<p>Planning and obtaining funding, and permission for research is a detailed process, the link below takes to you a visual map of the process involved – ask for support and network as it takes teams of people to conduct research</p> <p>www.ct-toolkit.ac.uk</p>
 <p>National Institute for Health Research</p>	<p>Clinical research networks (CRN) support planning and conducting research within the NHS</p> <p>https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/how-we-are-managed/managing-centres/crn/</p> <p>Research design service also accessed via the NIHR:</p> <p>https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/how-we-are-managed/our-structure/research/research-design-service/contact-us.htm</p>
	<p>Applications for clinical research in the NHS are done via the IRAS system</p> <p>https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/</p>

Clinical Academic Career?

 <p>National Institute for Health Research</p>	<p>The National Institute for Health Research have information for aspiring clinical academics from the non-medical professions</p> <p>https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/clinical-academic-careers</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KevHrdxQ1M</p> <p>Look at the HEE/NIHR site there are opportunities to undertake academic study and develop research skills</p>
	<p>BAHT offers research grants and winning a small grant award is a great way to get started to prepare you for bigger research projects. (link to page on BAHT site). Other organisations may also offer internships or scholarships e.g. CAHPR/ CSP.</p> <p>The Clinical Evidence Committee has self-declared as an NIHR non-commercial partner. The National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) Portfolio is a database of high-quality clinical research studies that are eligible for support from the NIHR Clinical Research Network in England.</p> <p>This enables those participants who are successfully awarded a research grant by BAHT CEC and who meet the NIHR criteria* to automatically be eligible for NIHR clinical research network support costs which provide additional resources and finances in addition to their funding to assist with the research process.</p> <p>NIHR criteria: must be research conducted in NHS in England. For more information on whether your project would meet the NIHR criteria and further details please go to:</p> <p>https://www.noclor.nhs.uk/study/nihr-portfolio-studies</p>