

UKMED Strategy

Last reviewed on 05/06/2024 and to be annually reviewed by the UKMED Research Group.

Purpose of UKMED Research

To enable research that benefits the understanding and improvement of the education and development of the UK medical workforce and their roles using information collated, added to and linked longitudinally using the UKMED database.

Our mission is to provide a unique resource in the form of a database that relates to the continuum of medical careers to:

- Improve standards of medical education and training in the UK and enable their innovation.
- Facilitate the development of the medical workforce and the strategy surrounding its development.
- Provide opportunities to deepen the understanding of medical career progression.

The strategy is conditional on

1. Data subjects' positive perception of UKMED.

This requires clear communication around the legal and ethical framework under which UKMED operates, the rights of data subjects and the benefits of the use of UKMED data, including articulating clear common purpose with stakeholders on the utility of UKMED's output.

2. Capacity to support study development and the operation of studies.

This requires securing, consolidating and developing available expertise and resource centrally (including funding).

Funding streams are directed towards applicants and increased numbers and complexity of studies produces a need for increased capacity of the UKMED operational team.

The strategy is operationalised by

3. A focus on medical workforce.

Maintaining and developing the workforce is a key direction for UKMED (noting that UKMED has facilitated workforce projects from a variety of stakeholders)

Substantive change and investment are pending in all UK nations and work to ensure efficacy is important.

Notably, given the database's longitudinal character, it may be of limited value for immediate rapid evaluation of proposed and current interventions.

4. Improving research study quality.

This needs a full project lifecycle approach.

4.1. Improving proposed studies.

Proposing topics of importance and best answered via UKMED – Research Subgroup, Advisory Board and stakeholders to propose. Will need to be publicised (Web, ClinEdR).

Commissioning studies – would need a link to funding.

Ensuring operational team resources are used equitably with similar studies encouraged.

To collaborate and repeated requests potentially addressed by routine data provision.

Provide educational interventions to drive research capacity and skill development.

Research Subgroup can contribute.

4.2. Accessing/ publicising funding.

2024 - NIHR funding call noted.

2024 - Work with potential sources of funding. e.g. Medical Protection Society in discussion.

4.3. Supporting projects effectively at all stages (see 2 above).

4.4. Aim to publicise outcomes and impact as widely as possible.