

## What makes a good research question

Jane Vennik

Your research idea / research focus	
To consider	Notes
<p>From where did your own research idea originate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your own clinical or professional experience?</li><li>• Recognising a gap in evidence/service delivery?</li><li>• Everyday problems?</li><li>• Discussions with colleagues, academics, researchers?</li><li>• Discussions with patients, public?</li></ul>	
<p>In no more than three sentences, state as clearly below what the general aim of your research idea is</p>	

Is your research fundable?	
To consider	Notes
<p>Is your research important? Will it make a difference?</p> <p>Is your research area listed as a priority anywhere (especially the <a href="#">James Lind Alliance</a>)?</p>	

Is your idea novel?	
To consider	Notes
<p>Is your topic area already being researched?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the <a href="#">NIHR funded studies</a></li> <li>• Check the <a href="#">Cochrane Library</a></li> <li>• Look in journal libraries like <a href="#">PubMed</a></li> </ul>	

Who will benefit from your research?	
To consider	Notes
<p>What number of people are affected by your topic (incidence and prevalence)?</p>	
<p>What is the current care pathway or burden to service users / NHS / social care?</p>	
<p>How will your research lead to improvements?</p>	

Is your research idea specific?	
To consider	Notes
<p>Is it <b>specific</b> enough that you can answer thoroughly?</p> <p>Is it <b>broad</b> enough to require complex answers rather than simply yes or no or with facts and figures?</p>	

Is your question answerable?	
To consider	Notes
<p>What methodology will you use to get to an answer? Quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods?</p>	
<p>What data is needed to answer your question?</p>	
<p>How will you collect your data?</p>	
<p>What is your timeframe? Is it possible to collect and analyse the data within this period?</p>	
<p>What resources will you need to do your research?</p>	

Purpose statement
<p><i>Write a purpose statement below. A purpose statement is not a research question. A purpose statement gives a summary of what your research interests are, what you plan to do in your research, how you plan to achieve it and what it will contribute to research understanding.</i></p>

### **Draft your research question**

*Have a go at drafting your research question. Remember: a research question will probably be revised many times!*