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This document contains information and guidance to assist users in selecting the appropriate 'type' when reporting a medical product or intervention. This guidance is provided and governed by the funders that subscribe to Researchfish. Please direct any questions to support@researchfish.com.

Types of product/intervention

In this section you will need to categorise the product/intervention you are reporting into one of 19 types.

Please select the type which best describes the product/intervention you are reporting.

The examples provide are not meant to be exhaustive. We welcome comments on this guidance text/improvements to these categories.

Diagnostic Tool – Imaging

Imaging includes the use of

- Radiography (MRI, X-rays)
- Nuclear medicine (SPECT, PET, Scintigraphy)
- Endoscopy
- (Medical) thermography
- Medical photography
- Ultrasound
- Microscopy (e.g. for human pathological investigations)
- Measurement and recording techniques which are not primarily designed to produce images, such as electroencephalography (EEG), magnetoencephalography (MEG), electrocardiography (EKG) and others, but which produce data susceptible to be represented as maps (i.e. containing positional information), should be treated as forms of "medical imaging".

Contrast agents, PET imaging agents, etc. should be entered under "Diagnostic Tool – Imaging" where their primary purpose is imaging applications. However, radiotherapy, radioimmunotherapy or radiosensitizing agents should be entered under "Therapeutic Intervention – Radiotherapy" where their primary purpose is as therapeutic agents.

Diagnostic Tool – Non-imaging

You should include all new diagnostic approaches not focussed on imaging modalities. This includes genetic, biochemical and physical tests or assays with the potential to be used diagnostically.

Therapeutic Intervention – Drug

The development of pharmaceutical drugs with the potential to treat, or to alleviate the symptoms of disease.

This includes:

- Small molecule drugs
- Hormones
- Biologics (such as oligosaccharides, peptides, therapeutic antibodies and recombinant proteins)
- Delivery of drugs (approaches to modify the release, absorption, distribution or elimination of drugs and ways to administer drugs e.g. inhalation/injection etc.)

Do not include:

- Virus, cellular-based, or gene therapies (such as siRNA or oligonucleotide drugs, which should be entered under “therapeutic intervention – cellular and gene therapy”)
- Cancer vaccines (which should be entered under “vaccines”)
- Drugs that are intended to be used in diagnosis (for example radio-labelled drugs used in imaging, which should be entered under “diagnostic tool – imaging”)
- Drugs used to prevent disease (such as prophylactic anti-malarial drugs, which should be entered under “preventative intervention – nutrition/chemoprevention”).

Vaccine

Include developments focussed on inducing an immune response with the aim of prevention (e.g. anti-bacterial or anti-viral vaccines) or therapy (e.g. therapeutic cancer vaccines).

Therapies that involve viruses or viral components, but are not focussed on modifying the immune system should not be reported in this section (e.g. viral vector gene therapies, which should be entered under “therapeutic intervention – cellular and gene therapy”).

Therapies that involve components of the immune system are not necessarily reported in this section (such as therapeutic monoclonal antibodies).

Approaches to deliver vaccines should also be entered under this section. For example this would include skin patch delivery systems, or plasmid approaches to vaccination.

Therapeutic Intervention – Cellular and gene therapy

Include:

- Developments involving the insertion of genetic material into the cell whether using a viral (e.g. adenovirus), non-viral (e.g. liposomal) vector or no vector at all (naked DNA).
- siRNA and oligonucleotide approaches
- Development of the systems to deliver genetic material, siRNAs and oligonucleotides (e.g. new viral or lipid vectors)
- The development of therapies that involve the delivery of cells (e.g. stem cell therapy)

Therapeutic Intervention – Medical device

Include the development of:

- Implantable devices
- Mobility aids
- Dressings
- Medical equipment (other than that used for diagnosis) and prostheses
- Approaches for the sterilisation and decontamination of equipment or surfaces

Therapeutic Intervention – Surgery

The development of surgical, obstetric and dental interventions including:

- Histocompatibility, transfusions, transplantations (including bone marrow transplants), and xenograft studies.

Do not include drugs (for example drugs used to modify transplant rejection) these should be entered under "Therapeutic Intervention – Drug"

Therapeutic Intervention – Radiotherapy

Include:

- Radiotherapy, radioimmunotherapy, radiosensitizers
- Microwaves

- Ultrasound (as a therapeutic, not as a diagnostic imaging approach)
- Laser and phototherapy

Therapeutic Intervention – Psychological/behavioural

Include:

- Psychiatric treatment
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy
- Electroconvulsive therapy
- Counselling

Therapeutic Intervention – Physical

Include:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Dietetics
- Exercise
- Osteopathy

Therapeutic Intervention – Complementary

Include:

- Hypnotherapy
- Meditation
- Massage
- Acupuncture
- Homeopathy

Preventative Intervention – Behavioural risk modification

Include approaches aimed at preventing disease (for example formulating content for sex education programmes in schools) or promoting good health (such as programmes to encourage increased exercise), which largely focus on the modification of people's behaviour.

The report should include an approach or product, which has the potential to enter wide scale use, not solely research to better understand behaviour. Although successful trialling of such products may impact upon policy or guidelines, this outcome should be noted in the "influence on policy" section of Researchfish.

Preventative Intervention – Physical/biological risk modification

Include approaches aimed at preventing disease or promoting good health, which largely focus on approaches other than modification of behaviour or nutrition/chemoprevention. This might include approaches such as male circumcision for prevention/reduction of HIV infection.

Preventative Intervention – Nutrition and chemoprevention

Include:

- Prophylactic drugs (such as anti-malarial drugs)
- Food supplements (such as vitamins)

Management of Diseases and Conditions

The development of approaches that address individual care needs and the management of disease, conditions or ill health that use existing products/interventions.

Include approaches focussed on:

- Individual care needs (e.g. literature to promote self-care or improve health care by carers)
- End of life care (e.g. palliative care services)

Health and Social Care Services

The development of approaches focussed on the provision and delivery of health and social care services, health policy and studies of research design, measurements and methodologies.

For example; the development of clinical care pathways.

Support Tool – For fundamental research

The development of products that are focussed on underpinning research.

Details of research materials/tools or methods should be entered into the “research materials” section of Researchfish, unless the tool is being actively developed toward a marketable product, or is already commercialised.

Examples of support tools for fundamental research include new electron microscope detectors, or software to analyse/display chemical structures.

Support Tool – For medical intervention

The development of other products that are focussed on medical interventions.

Details of therapeutic medical devices should be entered under “therapeutic intervention – medical device”.

The development of for instance a new animal model to be used in drug testing or perhaps a new software tool for use in medical device design, rather than a new/improved diagnostic/medical device itself.

Products with applications outside of medicine

Include here any products which have potential applications outside of medicine, where this is the primary focus of their application.