

HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

At MBS we carry out a wide range of research into health and social care policy, management and organisation. Much of this is funded by the Department of Health and other statutory bodies. We are always happy to discuss your ideas and proposals for research projects where they fit with the interests and expertise of our staff. Feel free to contact the individuals named below or look at the websites listed.

Some of our current and recently completed research initiatives in health are outlined below:

Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC)

The CLAHRC - a collaboration between University of Manchester and the ten Primary Care Trusts in Greater Manchester together with the mental health care services, ambulance service and five major hospitals – will carry out research into healthcare for people with cardiovascular conditions and ensure that knowledge gained from this research is used to improve health services across Greater Manchester. The Greater Manchester CLAHRC is one of seven in England that were selected to generate a step change in the quality of NHS care through knowledge transfer between a leading university and its local NHS trusts.

The research will focus on better resources to support patient self-management, new approaches to the management of depression in patients with vascular disease, patient-centred models of access to specialist care and information systems to facilitate the planning and monitoring of care pathways for people with vascular disease.

MBS will be leading the implementation of research into practice, in partnership with NHS staff, in the areas of stroke, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and heart disease. NHS staff will be supported by MBS academics to implement research findings and spread and sustain good practice. *The CLAHRC will operate from October 2008 and is funded by the National Institute of Health Research and the local NHS, with a total of £20 million over five years.*

http://www.nihr.ac.uk/infrastructure_clahrcs.aspx
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Innovation and improvement

Evaluation of NHS Networks, NHS Live and CHAIN

This report investigates the current and potential future roles of three networks funded by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement. The researchers used a model of diffusion to structure the analysis and identified a number of unique selling points for each network. Further work has been commissioned by the Institute for completion in March 2009.

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<http://www.mbs.ac.uk/research/hsi/research>

MARQuIS (Methods of Assessing Response to Quality Improvement Strategies)

Part of the 6th Framework Research Programme of the European Union, the research involves research partners from seven member states. MBS completed a survey of quality improvement policies and strategies in healthcare systems of member states of the European Union which has formed the basis for a policy briefing delivered to the European Commission.

Funded by the European Commission.

<http://www.marquis.be>
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Quality improvement – theory and practice

A review of the evidence for quality improvement in healthcare – with a focus on approaches such as the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle, statistical process control (SPC), lean, six sigma, the Theory of Constraints (TOC) and mass customisation. Who is using these approaches in healthcare? Do they really work?

Funded by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

Report to be published June 2008 at

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Cultural change in NHS organisations: understanding the dynamics

This project aims to understand the nature and dynamics of culture change in the NHS, with a particular emphasis on how organisational culture links to healthcare performance across the whole health economy.

Research undertaken with Universities of Durham, London, St Andrews, York, and Manchester (National Primary Care Research and Development Centre).

Funded by the NHS NIHR SDO programme.

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Responding to evidence of poor performance: public organisations' capacity to deal with failure

What happens when public services are seen to fail? What could be done better? This research looks at how challenges arising from evidence of poor performance are met and what can be learned from different strategies for coping with failure.

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

<http://www.publicservices.ac.uk>
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Developing effective boards

This study examined the literature with regard to board tasks and styles of working. The report identifies a framework for helping NHS boards to deliver and provides recommendations for those wishing to commission a systematic development programme. The findings are used to support the NHS board development work we undertake.

Report available in PDF format
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Organisations and workforce

Improving health through HRM

This study explored how Human Resource Management (HRM) can contribute to improved organisational performance in the NHS, by examining the HRM-performance link and to get inside the 'black box' of behaviours that flow from effective HRM. The study was completed in January 2008; the report is available on the website and has also been published by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (www.cipd.co.uk).

Research carried out by MBS staff, with others from the University of Manchester, National Primary Care Research and Development Centre, and Lancaster University Management School.

Funded by the Department of Health, CIPD and the Healthcare People Management Association (HPMA).

<http://www.mbs.ac.uk/research/improving-health>
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Recruitment and retention of a care workforce for older people

This study will identify the influence on recruitment and retention outcomes of the policy/commissioning environment, local labour market conditions and the organisational/work environment using survey, interview and case study methods.

Research carried out by European Work and Employment Research Centre (EWERC) (MBS) and Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU), University of Manchester.

Funded by Department of Health.

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Technology and its impact

Examining the impact of the Web on healthcare

An in-depth study on the impact of the internet on healthcare in the UK – researchers are examining how patients, carers and professionals use of the Web for health-related material affects patient attitudes, patient-professional interaction, treatment selection and health outcomes.

Research being carried out at MBS and the University of Glasgow.

Funded by the NHS NIHR Service Delivery and Organisation programme.

<http://www.bewebhealthy.com/>

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Adaptive Visualisation Tools for e-Science Collaboration (ADVISES)

This project will create a new way of communicating with computers for scientists. Systems will be built to display the results that match an enquiry such as 'I need to know the effect of public health awareness campaigns on obesity of children in the north west, showing me visits by doctors and school dietary policy on a map'. The result will be a new and more natural way of communicating with computers as well as new ways of sharing information over the internet.

Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

Research carried out with staff from other parts of the University of Manchester, including the Schools of Medicine and Social Sciences.

<http://www.mbs.ac.uk/research/ADVISES-summary.aspx>

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Policy and Evaluation

Scrutinising for Health: Health Scrutiny Evaluative Research Project

This three year project examines progress since 2003 and finds evidence of the four 'C' styles of democratic function and working: corporate, collaborative, challenge and campaign with the first two of these to the fore.

Funded by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

www.cfps.org.uk/publications

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Evaluation of the Mental Health Improvement Partnership programme (MHIP)

This evaluation assesses the effectiveness of MHIP and its potential for national application; and identifies areas for improvement, based on research in four mental health trusts and their local partner agencies. It addresses the structure, process, outcomes and costs of MHIP and thus provides an understanding of how change can be brought about effectively within the NHS.

Funded by the NHS National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO) programme with research at MBS and the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Research and Training Unit.

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Links to Public Policy and Management

The Herbert Simon Institute is a new initiative based at MBS to connect those engaged in public policy and management activities across the University and beyond. The Institute acknowledges the increasingly cross-sectoral nature of public services. Functions include an annual one-day conference and a 3-day academy for leading practitioners in the field of public management, as well as acting as a research centre for those involved in health and wider public sector research activities.

www.mbs.ac.uk/research/hsi

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Public Value and Performance research network

Under the auspices of the Herbert Simon Institute, the Public Value and Performance research network has been established to promote coordination and collaboration in this field across the University of Manchester. There is already a substantial body of research being currently undertaken and we hope the network will improve this. The network will also be reaching out to involve practitioners and policy-makers

across public services, domestically and internationally.

For further information, contact colin.talbot@mbs.ac.uk

Services

MBS has a developing reputation in the field of research into service organisations and the service sector in general, of which health services are key elements.

Expertise at Manchester includes service innovation, operations, marketing and technology and we are partners in the development of the field of "services science" which is being promoted by IBM, HP, BT and others.

<http://www.ssmenetuk.org>
<http://www.servicesystems.org.uk/index.asp>

General

MBS researchers have strong partnerships with other parts of the University of Manchester, including the Schools of Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, School of Social Sciences, and with the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre and the Institute for Health Sciences, as well as a range of national and international collaborations and partnerships.

For general enquiries about health research at MBS please contact:

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