

## Overview: The EPIC model for research engagement

### Introduction

The underlying rationale of the EPIC model for research engagement is to provide a framework which demonstrates ways in which health professionals, at all stages of their career, can engage with research within mainstream clinical practice.

The motivation behind the development of the model is a sense that currently the narrative associated with engagement with research within the NHS is dominated by an academic research perspective which focuses attention on the conduct research and the development of clinical academic pathways. Whilst this focus is essential in supporting the development of a strong clinical research infrastructure it tends to exclude the vast majority of health professionals who do not, for a variety of reasons, wish to pursue these options. The consequence of this is the marginalisation of research within practice.

The EPIC model is underpinned by the NHS constitutional commitment to the *promotion, conduct and use of research* and aims to provide a framework which:

- is relevant to all healthcare professionals
- is focused on engagement with research within a clinical context
- adopts a broad approach to the meaning of research engagement
- provides tangible actions relevant to a clinical setting.

By crafting a more inclusive narrative of research engagement the EPIC model has the potential to enable health professionals to identify positive actions to contribute to developing a thriving research culture within practice and provides a clear pathway for those wishing to progress their early career research development.

### Structure

The model comprises seven components, the first three are relevant to all health professionals. The fourth component marks a point of transition for those wishing to increase their engagement with research and the remaining three components focus on those wanting to develop their research skills and expertise further.

To illustrate how, through engaging with research in a clinical setting, health professionals can start to develop research skills and expertise the skills developed in each component are mapped onto the four domains of the VITAE researcher development framework (1).

Within the associated workbook and workshop for each component of the model suggestions are made for activities which can be undertaken to support health professionals in moving forward.

The seven components of the EPIC model comprise:

1. **Explore** to develop and increase your understanding of the health research community
2. **Promote** opportunities to engage with research to service users
3. **Implement** evidence informed practice and consolidate expertise in critical appraisal and evidence synthesis
4. **Clarify** your interest in research
5. **Advance** your skills and expertise through formal and informal personal development
6. **Champion** research within your clinical team and profession
7. **Engage** strategically to develop relationships and potential collaborations



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Vitae Researcher Development Framework. Accessed via [www.vitae.ac.uk](http://www.vitae.ac.uk)



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