

High Impact Interventions – Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)

Introduction

The Burdett Trust for Nursing is an independent charitable trust that makes grants to support the nursing contribution to healthcare through nurse-led¹ projects. The Trust aims to use its funds to empower nurses and through this, make significant improvements to the patient care environment. To mark its twentieth anniversary, the Trust launched a funding strategy focused on reducing morbidity and the impact of longer-term disability related to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This latest, fourth NCD programme invites applications for effective interventions focused on reducing the prevalence and effects of cerebrovascular accident (CVA), more commonly known as a stroke.

High impact interventions – Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)

Cerebrovascular accident (CVA) is a leading cause of death and adult disability globally. Although advances in treatments and specialist services have helped to reduce mortality and improve outcomes, the incidence of CVA (stroke) is continuing to rise, partly due to an ageing population. The Burdett Trust is inviting proposals for initiatives that will reduce its prevalence and impact.

The Trust recognises that the application of nursing interventions that are introduced proactively from the earliest symptomatic presentational stages of a stroke, through to long-term management, saves lives, reduces disability and significantly improves patient outcomes and longevity. Nurses can provide highly specialised, holistic and patient-centred care preventatively and for acute stroke care, rehabilitation and long term follow up and care management. They are well-positioned to educate and use evidence-based practice to prevent, diagnose, treat, and control hypertension and obesity, and generally promote overall enhanced cardiovascular health. Nurses are often the key communicating link in the acute triage process, rapidly recognising and evaluating walk-in patients who present with one or more suspected stroke symptoms. During treatment, their assessments and identification of patient changes inform critical decisions, and their role during care transitions from the acute setting to the community is crucial for stroke patients and their families. Nursing expertise contributes significantly to optimising patient outcomes; addressing medical, emotional, psychological, social and functional needs throughout the continuum of care and facilitating the recovery process. The Burdett Trust for Nursing also acknowledges the need for a range of pre-disposing socioeconomic and cultural factors to be considered, in order to ensure the provision of relevant, effective and equitable access to stroke services provided by the nursing workforce. The Trust also recognises that more research using consistent methods, measures and time frames is needed.

¹ Where the term nurse is used in this document it includes midwives, health visitors and allied health professionals.

Grant Guidelines for Applicants

The Trust is pleased to invite proposals for nurse-led interventions that will support preventative cardiovascular health, optimal and effective rehabilitation and a reduction in hospitalisation, morbidity and mortality due to stroke.

All projects **must be nurse-led** and have the nursing contribution to healthcare at their core. Whilst the trustees will fund innovative and original nursing research, their main aim is to act as change agents facilitating quality improvements that benefit nursing, patient experience and outcomes. This could include the adoption of innovative or best practice across patient groups or nursing teams.

It is important that projects or programmes of work have the potential not only to make positive changes locally, but are able to be adopted and spread across the health/social care system. Proposals must be well-argued and demonstrate why the project is needed, what benefits and impacts it will deliver and describe how it will generate learning that can be shared, disseminated and adopted more widely.

All successful grant holders will be expected to take part in a half-day conference in central London to share their learning and publicise the outcomes of this programme.

Eligibility

Applicant organisations *must be*:

- properly constituted bodies in the public or voluntary/charity sectors; or
- a university or other charitable educational body that provides health-related education, training or research and development.

Projects *must*:

- be nurse-led,
- demonstrate an innovative approach to strengthening nursing leadership.

All applications from an overseas institution must be partnered with a UK not-for-profit organisation. Any awards will be funded through the UK Institution.

Salary costs are normally excluded; the only exception is the additional cost of locum cover, staff to provide training, support, research and development, or to undertake project management or evaluation, which are an integral part of the project proposal and would not otherwise be funded by the applicant organisation, which may be included in an application for funding.

Exclusions

The Trust will not fund:

- salary costs, posts, services or direct care costs that are regarded as the core funding responsibilities or statutory responsibility of Government or a public body.
- projects developed and undertaken by individuals, or personal study.
- private sector organisations.
- the costs of laptop computers, tablets and mobile phones.
- projects that are part of established improvement programmes or projects which are already funded by other bodies
- projects concerned with the statutory elements of staff transfer or the mandatory retraining or orientation of staff to new organisations.

Funding & Awards

Grants awarded within this programme will typically be between £50,000 and £100,000.

Terms and Conditions

- Projects are likely to be completed within a 12-month period.
- Progress reports and financial statements will be required at six monthly intervals, with a final report and financial statement submitted within two months of the project completion date.
- The award will usually be paid in equal instalments linked to the reporting cycle, and upon receipt of a satisfactory progress report and financial statement.
- Applications for projects with a significant educational element will be required to demonstrate evidence of a strong service-academic partnership.
- In addition to their own plans for dissemination and knowledge transfer, successful applicants will be expected to contribute to a Trust conference in Central London.

What will Trustees look for in applications?

Trustees anticipate a large number of project proposals. The Applicants are advised that project proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis to ensure that funds are used to support projects that best meet the Trust's objectives.

Trustees aim to fund projects that:

- are innovative, offering new ways to strengthen and improve nursing leadership and multi-agency collaboration.
- provide evidence of direct user and patient involvement and the co-production of self-care solutions.

Grant Guidelines for Applicants

- will generate learning or new practices that can be shared with others, and which have the potential to be disseminated and adopted more widely.
- will promote collaborative working among health and social care professionals, and partnerships within and across organisations.
- have the support and backing of key stakeholders
- have sound arrangements for project management and monitoring, and robust plans for measurement and evaluation
- focus on patient/service user safety and the promotion of dignity and respect
- are succinct, well-argued and demonstrate clearly why the project is needed and what benefits it will deliver.

Application Process and Deadlines

The Trust recognises that developing grant applications is time consuming and can result in disappointment. To minimise the burden on applicants, the application process has been designed to be as user-friendly as possible, using online application technology. Applicants are advised to download the questions in advance and prepare their answers carefully before attempting to complete the application form online. All applications will be acknowledged and, if necessary, applicants will be contacted during the assessment process to answer any questions relating to their application.

Applicants must download a copy of the Trust's Grant Contract prior to making an application to ensure their organisation can agree to its terms and conditions in the event of a grant being offered.

Applicants are **strongly advised** to apply well in advance of the deadline: **midnight, Friday 22 March 2024**

Applicants will usually be notified of the outcome of their application within three months of the closing date.

Please note: the Trustees' decisions are final and unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide reasons why applications are declined.

Data Protection Act

To comply with this Act, we require your consent to use personal data supplied by you in the processing and review of your grant application. This includes transfer to and use by such individuals and organisations as the Trust deems appropriate. The Trust requires your further assurance that personal data about any other individual is supplied to the Trust with his/her consent. Submitting an outline proposal to the Trust confirms this consent and assurance.