

### CONFERENCES

#### Health Services Research UK Conference, 2023

This year's conference was held at University of Birmingham and online, 4-6 July. Watch our presentations on:

- A **systematic scoping review on peer support services** in adult prisons, by Holly Walton [\[LINK\]](#)

- Emerging findings from our **evaluation of Patient-initiated Follow-Up (PIFU)**, by Rachel Hutchings and Chris Sherlaw-Johnson [\[LINK\]](#)

#### SAVE THE DATE!

Next year's conference will be held on 3-5 July at University of Oxford. Call for abstracts announcement on 20 November 2023!

#### Rapid Evaluation in Health Care Conference, 2023

Missed the conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> May? You can still **watch the sessions** [here!](#)

The next conference will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The registration will open soon. Email [events@nuffieldtrust.org.uk](mailto:events@nuffieldtrust.org.uk) to find out more.

### ABOUT RSET

The health and care system in the UK looks after an ageing population with increasingly complex care needs, but money is tight. This means the NHS needs to (1) develop new ways of providing care and, (2) when a new approach works well, understand and share learnings about that success with other parts of the health service quickly.

To meet this challenge, the Rapid Service Evaluation Team (RSET), comprising researchers from UCL and Nuffield Trust, have been funded by NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research programme for five years to rapidly evaluate new ways of providing and organising care.

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### RSET FUNDED FOR 5 MORE YEARS!

We are delighted to report that the NIHR Health and Social Care Delivery Research Programme has funded RSET for another 5 years!

This followed a competitive bid process and fantastic collaboration across our team and partners. While we are proud of what we achieved through our first five years, during the bidding process we thought hard about how we can take rapid evaluation to the next level. We have developed several new ways to work more effectively, and place patients and the public even more closely to the heart of our evaluations.

We have just begun work and are looking forward to putting these plans into action: watch this space!

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Interested in lessons on **rapid evaluation methods and practice in health & social care**? RSET the BRACE teams have come together to reflect on our work over the last 5 years and key considerations for future rapid evaluations, published by NIHR. [Read the essay here!](#)
- We investigated a **youth violence intervention programme for vulnerable young people attending emergency departments in London**. Does the scheme work and how is it helping young people? Find out in [this report](#).
- The full report of our **rapid evaluation of the remote home monitoring models during the COVID-19 pandemic in England** is now published, [read it here](#).

See the list of all new publications at the bottom of the newsletter!

### LEARNING FROM RAPID EVALUATIONS IN HEALTH AND CARE WORKSHOP

We are excited to share materials from our invitation-only workshop held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023. During this event, we shared and explored experiences, learning, and best practices in rapid evaluation with academic researchers, and participants from NHSE, ASHNs, funders, and policymakers. Insights were drawn from both RSET and BRACE's five years as NIHR-funded rapid service evaluation teams.

Key discussion topics included 'When is Rapid Appropriate?', 'Balancing Speed & Rigour'. The presentation slides from the workshop are [available for download from here](#).

Here's what some of our attendees had to say:

*"I was expecting a strong focus on practical experience and this was delivered"*

*"It really made me think and I learnt more about the practical side of evaluation"*

Interested in joining us for similar events in the future? Reach out to us at [peili.ng@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:peili.ng@ucl.ac.uk).

### PROJECT UPDATES

#### Innovations in Outpatient Services

This project includes the following elements:

1. A rapid scoping review of outpatient innovations.
2. Using a method to scan national patient-level data to identify potentially successful local interventions and explore these with hospitals we identified.
3. A rapid mixed-methods evaluation of patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU).

The project is now complete: we have submitted our final report and are working on a series of research papers and other outputs. In addition, we have been sharing lessons with key stakeholders in a range of settings:

- NHS Confederation roundtable: Harnessing the value of PIFU in an Evolving Healthcare System
- Action on Outpatients webinar organised by NHS England
- NHS England Outpatient Transformation Programme team

#### Peer Supported Social Care in Prisons

In recent years, more adult prisoners are requiring social care. To address this, some prisons have adopted peer-supported social care, whereby adult prisoners provide social care support to other adult prisoners. Many different types of peer supported initiatives are used in England and Wales, but there is little research on their effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, implementation, and stakeholder experiences.

Our study aimed to explore:

1. What peer support schemes is currently provided,
2. How these schemes are used in practice,
3. Experiences of those delivering and receiving social care support,
4. How we can measure the impact and cost of these schemes.

We conducted our study in 18 prisons across England and Wales. Data collection and analysis are now complete, and a summary of our findings will be shared on our NIHR RSET website shortly.

#### **Centralising Specialist Healthcare Services**

Centralising specialised healthcare services into centres that treat high volumes of patients is proposed as a way to improve care, outcomes, and efficiency. Our evaluation aimed to explore:

1. Review the evidence on how centralisation affects key outcomes,
2. A proposed integration of physical and mental health services for young people with eating disorders and functional symptom disorders was studied in terms of:
  - a. A review of evidence for integration in this setting,
  - b. A qualitative study of stakeholder views of a proposed integration,
  - c. Two discrete choice experiments – surveys to explore people’s priorities for integrating services of this kind.

The project is now complete: we have submitted our final report and four papers for publication. We are now working with our stakeholder groups to explore how we might share our findings in other ways.

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## **LIST OF ALL NEW PUBLICATIONS**

- Fulop N, et al. (2023) Rapid evaluation of the Special Measures for Quality and challenged provider regimes: a mixed-methods study. *Health and Social Care Delivery Research* ([LINK](#))
- Herlitz L, et al. (2023) Patient and staff experiences of using technology-enabled and analogue models of remote home monitoring for COVID-19 in England: A mixed-method evaluation. *International Journal of Medical Informatics* ([LINK](#))
- Smith J, et al. (2023) Rapid evaluation of service innovations in health and social care: key considerations. *Health and Social Care Delivery Research* ([LINK](#))
- Appleby J, et al. (2023) Youth violence intervention programme for vulnerable young people attending emergency departments in London: a rapid evaluation. *Health and Social Care Delivery Research* ([LINK](#))
- Fulop N, et al. (2023) A Rapid Mixed Methods Evaluation of Remote Home Monitoring Models During the COVID-19 Pandemic in England. *Health and Social Care Delivery Research* ([LINK](#))
- Sidhu M, et al. (2023). Staff experiences of training and delivery of remote home monitoring services for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in England: A mixed-methods study. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy* ([LINK](#))
- Walton H, et al. (2023) Undertaking rapid evaluations during the COVID-19 pandemic: Lessons from evaluating COVID-19 remote home monitoring services in England. *Frontiers* ([LINK](#))
- Sidhu M, et al. (2022). Using pulse oximeters in care homes for residents with COVID-19 and other conditions: a rapid mixed-methods evaluation. *Health and Social Care Delivery Research* ([LINK](#))
- Sidhu M S, et al. (2022). Learning networks in the pandemic: mobilizing evidence for improvement. *BMJ* ([LINK](#))
- Ramsay, A. et al. (2022) Prehospital video triage of potential stroke patients in North Central London and East Kent: rapid mixed-methods service evaluation. *Health and Social Care Delivery Research* ([LINK](#))

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RSET**, please visit our [WEBSITE](#) or [EMAIL US](#).

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