




EUROPEAN
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
PLATFORM

Call for Proposals: Terms of Reference for a researcher for EMSP's Paediatric MS Caregivers Project

20 December 2019

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1. Purpose of assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to conduct systematic reviews (on the topic of caregivers of paediatric MS; paediatric MS; paediatric MS healthcare professionals); produce reports to EMSP Recommendations Expert Group; work with members of the Expert Group to produce at least one scientific article to be published in a peer-reviewed, international journal and undertake related tasks within the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform’s project – [Recommendations for Caregivers of Paediatric multiple sclerosis \(MS\)](#).

2. Background

[The Recommendations for Caregivers of Paediatric MS Patients](#) project aims at improving the quality of care received by children and young people with MS and address the challenges faced by caregivers.

This project will allow:

- To identify existing resources as well as unmet needs for caregivers of the growing number of children and adolescents with MS;
- To agree on a set of recommendations for the caregivers and specialised healthcare professionals;
- To raise awareness on the needs for caregivers through inclusion of the recommendations within EMSPs broader campaigning strategy.

3. Scope of work

- Undertake systematic reviews of the literature related to the experiences and supports available for people with paediatric MS and their caregivers as well as explore practices of paediatric MS healthcare professionals: collaborate with the EMSP experts on the generation of relevant research questions; perform literature searches; produce reports and undertake other related tasks;
- Produce and register a protocol for the systematic review;
- Co-author publication (s) with EMSP’s experts based on the work carried out;
- Liaise with EMSP’s Programme Coordinator and the Principal Investigator (Maynooth University) to coordinate the EMSP’s Expert Group.

4. Estimated work schedule (detailed work schedule to be agreed with EMSP’s programme coordinator)

January, 2020	Start the systematic review process for the identified research questions
February, 2020	Development of the protocol and registration
March-May, 2020	Conducting the literature search





June, 2020	Full text screening and quality appraisal
July-August, 2020	Synthesising evidence and interpreting results
August-September, 2020	Co-authoring publication (s) on the work conducted
September, 2020 - until submission	Submitting for publication(s)

5. Deliverables

Systematic review reports, protocols and publications.

6. Grant

A grant would be available for eligible researchers.

7. Type of supervision that will be provided

The consultant will work under supervision of the Programme Coordinator and the Principle Investigator (Maynooth University). The supervisors will regularly brief the consultant on the development of the assignment; agree on the process and clarify the deliverables; and, provide feedback and comments on intermediary products. The supervisors will evaluate the consultant's work and certify the delivery of work.

8. Place of work and official travel involved

This is a home-based consultancy. Applicants should have access to relevant library databases.

9. Qualifications and specialised knowledge/experience required

Desirable:

- PhD in public health, social or related field in progress or obtained;
- Experience in conducting systematic reviews in public health or social research, preferably on topics related to MS, paediatric MS and/or caregivers;

Personal/organizational Competencies

- A high level of analytical and coordination skills
- High level of attention to detail
- An excellent command of the English language – both written and oral
- Ability to produce quality work within a deadline and under pressure
- Highly developed communication skills
- Motivated and capable to work independently as well as in a team environment Interest in health or social research





10. How to apply

Qualified candidates are requested to submit a cover letter describing their systematic review experiences and other relevant qualifications, CV and one written sample of previous work related to public health or social research to Nora Kriausaite: programme.coordinator@emsp.org, by the 10th January 2020.

