

Leukaemia UK Patient Care Pioneer Award 2026 Guidelines

Overview

The Leukaemia UK Patient Care Pioneer Award (PCPA) is intended to provide funding specifically for patient-focussed applied research. The funding is offered for innovative patient-centred projects that seek to explore new practical approaches to improve treatment, care, and quality of life for leukaemia patients. The expectation is that projects will be of short duration to provide rapid proof of principle/evidence to address an unmet patient need, or to develop a proposed practice-changing improvement for the benefit of patient treatment and care, or to generate robust preliminary data for a subsequent funding application.

Scope

The proposed research must focus on people with **leukaemia and/or precursor conditions** such as myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) and Clonal Haematopoiesis of Indeterminate Potential (CHIP). Of note, applications related to people with precursor conditions must focus on the impact of the progression of such conditions to leukaemia. Leukaemia UK will **not fund applications on lymphoma or myeloma**.

The remit of the funding is intentionally broad and can address any aspect of leukaemia patient care, quality of life or treatment, including post-treatment. Successfully funded projects should demonstrate the opportunity or potential to make a real difference to leukaemia patients and their families.

The funding is for applied research: it is not intended to fund gaps in NHS service and cannot be used to fund service development or service improvement. However, the award can be used to highlight a need or improvement that could subsequently be used to campaign for change to NHS practice.

The funding is also not intended to be used as an educational grant for the award holder. However, the award can be used to fund specific training that is necessary to enable the award holder to undertake the proposed project successfully, including training that may be part of the award holder's education programme (e.g., a master's qualification).

We would particularly welcome applications that seek to address an unmet need or develop a practice-changing improvement to treatment, care, and quality of life for patients in communities that are poorly-served or underrepresented in research.

Eligibility

Proposals are invited from UK-based healthcare professionals, particularly nurses and other allied healthcare professionals, at any stage of their career working within haematology. The Lead Applicant must be employed by a UK healthcare provider or UK research institution, which will be deemed as the 'Host Institution' for contractual purposes. Lead Applicants with limited research experience should arrange for an experienced researcher to be involved in their proposed research either as a Co-Applicant or a Named Collaborator. Co-applicant(s) need not be affiliated with the 'Host Institution' but must also be employed by a UK healthcare provider or UK research institution.

Grants

Awards are for up to £50,000 to span 6-18 months. The award may be used for salary, consumables, and other direct costs of the project such as patient participant travel reimbursement, publications, dissemination activities, and conference attendance in the UK, but it will not support fees for education programmes or indirect costs such as institutional overheads. We would not expect the

award to be used primarily to cover the Lead Applicant's salary for the period of the award. However, a proportion of the funding can be used to 'buy out' a percentage of the Lead Applicant's time to enable the Lead Applicant to undertake the proposed project successfully.

The initial application should provide indicative financial information as to how the award will be utilised, corroborated by the relevant finance department. Successful applicants may be asked to provide a more detailed financial breakdown, in line with the terms and conditions of the award.

Application process

All applications must be submitted via the [Leukaemia UK Funding Management System](#) and will be subject to peer review by members of Leukaemia UK's Scientific and Medical Advisory Panel, independent external expert reviewers, and people with experience of leukaemia. The application review process is summarised below. Full details of the review process can be found in the [Research Strategy](#) section of the Leukaemia UK website.

Initial assessment: Applications may be rejected following an initial assessment after which the applicant will be informed accordingly.

- Applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria, and any deviation from the guidelines must be explained.
- Applications must be properly completed and signed off: page and word limits must be strictly followed, and all necessary supporting documents provided.

Peer review: Applications that pass the initial assessment will be sent for review to be:

- Assessed and scored by at least five members of Leukaemia UK's PCPA Expert Review Panel
- Assessed and scored by at least two independent external expert reviewers
- Assessed by lay, patient member(s) of Leukaemia UK's Patient Experience Advisory Panel who provide input and opinion but who do not score applications.

Application feedback: Feedback may be available at the discretion of Leukaemia UK, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Closing date

The closing date for receipt of applications is **12 noon on 30 April 2026**. All applicants can expect to be contacted with the outcome of their application by **31 July 2026**. Successful awards will be publicly announced in Autumn 2026.

Working with the Charity

Award holders will be expected to act as ambassadors for Leukaemia UK and the Patient Care Pioneer Award programme.

Charity details

Leukaemia UK, 26 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5BL

Registered charity no. 1154856