

Acute Medicine James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnership (PSP)

Steering Group: Information for Applicants

What is a James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnership (PSP)?

The James Lind Alliance (JLA) is a UK-based, non-profit initiative that brings together patients, carers and healthcare professionals to identify and prioritise unanswered research questions that matter most to those who use and deliver healthcare. A Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) follows a structured, transparent and evidence-informed process to:

- Collect research questions (“uncertainties”) from patients, carers and clinicians
- Check these questions against existing research to determine which remain unanswered
- Prioritise the most important unanswered questions through a collaborative, consensus-based approach
- Produce a nationally recognised list of priority research questions that is used by researchers and research funders

JLA PSPs are widely recognised by major UK research funders and play an important role in shaping future research agendas.

Why is a JLA PSP important for Acute Medicine?

Acute Medicine is a relatively new medical specialty with a rapidly developing clinical and academic identity. While acute medical services are well established across the UK, the research base supporting Acute Medicine is still emerging.

A JLA PSP in Acute Medicine will:

- Ensure that future research focuses on questions that matter most to patients, carers and frontline clinicians.
- Help prioritise research in an area where resources and capacity are limited
- Provide a clear, nationally agreed research agenda for the specialty
- Strengthen applications to external research funders, many of whom value or require alignment with JLA priorities



- Support the long-term development of high-quality, patient-centred research in Acute Medicine

Being part of the JLA PSP Steering Group is an opportunity to help shape the future research direction of Acute Medicine at a national level, but no prior research experience is needed.

What is the JLA PSP Steering Group?

The James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) Steering Group oversees the process of identifying and prioritising the most important unanswered research questions in Acute Medicine. The Steering Group brings together patients, carers and healthcare professionals to ensure that future research focuses on what matters most to those who deliver and receive acute medical care. The meetings will be chaired by Rhiann McLean, the JLA Adviser for this PSP,

Members of the Steering Group play a central role in shaping the focus and scope of the PSP, making sure that we reach a wide range of patient, carers and health professionals, supporting the review of submitted questions, and contributing to consensus-based prioritisation.

What does being part of the Steering Group involve?

Steering Group members will be asked to:

- Attend and actively contribute to Steering Group meetings.
- Review documents in advance of meetings and provide feedback between meetings when required
- Help agree the scope of the PSP and inclusion/exclusion criteria for questions
- Advise on appropriate language, methods and inclusive engagement strategies to reach a diverse range of patients, carers and healthcare professionals
- Approach and draw on their established contacts and networks as well as PSP Partners to help promote the work of the PSP
- Contribute to discussions about priorities in Acute Medicine from their own perspective
- Support with the collection of evidence uncertainties from patients, carers, clinicians and existing literature
- Sign off the final shortlist of questions to be taken to the priority setting workshop



- Help publicise the final top 10 uncertainties to the research community
- The Steering Group will be supported by the James Lind Alliance and guided by established JLA methodology.

Time commitment

The expected time commitment is:

- Monthly Steering Group meetings. Most meetings will be virtual and last approximately 1-1.5 hours. The first Steering Group meeting will be slightly longer. We hope to meet face-to-face at least once during the PSP process, potentially at the halfway point.
- Additional time to read and review documents between meetings (approximately a few hours per meeting cycle)

We recognise the pressures on clinical and professional workloads and aim to keep commitments proportionate and well planned.

Who are we looking for?

We are seeking a diverse and representative Steering Group, including:

- Healthcare professionals and hospital managers working in or closely with Acute Medicine (this can include primary care and ambulance staff)
- Patients and members of the public with lived experience of acute medical care
- Carers

In selecting members, we will aim for diversity across:

- Career stage (including early, mid and senior roles)
- Professional background and discipline
- Geography
- Demographic characteristics

Applicants should be able to:

- Contribute constructively to group discussions
- Share perspectives on important issues in acute medical care and service delivery
- Work collaboratively and respectfully with others.



Prior research experience is not needed.

Timelines and application processes

Applications to be part of the working group will open on 01/10/26.

Applications will close 30/10/26.

Decisions on applications will be made by the Acute Medicine PSP team, with support from the JLA Adviser and SAM research committee as needed, and decisions are final. No late applications will be considered.

Applications should be completed online via [Acute Medicine Priority Setting Partnership - Steering Group Application form – Fill in form](#)

Decisions will be made by 09/11/26.

If you are not offered one of the Steering Group places, there are still many ways to be involved.

This might include:

- completing our surveys;
- joining a discussion group;
- participating in our final workshop to help decide our Top 10;
- helping us share the results; or
- becoming involved in future Acute Medicine research.

We hope this project will create a much wider community of healthcare professionals, patients and carers interested in improving Acute Medicine research.

Further information and project updates can be found at <https://www.acutemedicine.org.uk/research-new/>

If you have any questions about the role or the application process, please contact Prof Liz Sapey: e.sapey@bham.ac.uk or research@acutemedicine.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in supporting the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership in Acute Medicine.

