

<b>Title of research:</b>	<b>Determining Health Protection Research Priorities in Ireland</b>
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<b>Ethical approval:</b>	This study received a favourable opinion from Reference Research Ethics Committee Midlands Area and Corporate (Regional Health Area B) in March 2023.
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## **Abstract**

The primary purpose of this study is to further develop a framework for health protection research that supports a culture of best practice and is based on scientific knowledge, data and evidence. This study aims to identify health protection research priorities in Ireland utilising a modified e-Delphi approach and the Nominal Group Technique (NGT). This study is guided by the Reporting Guideline for Priority Setting of Health Research (REPRISE).

Approximately 40 participants will be recruited for rounds one and two (e-Delphi). The first questionnaire (round 1) consists of open-ended questions. The responses to round 1 will be subject to thematic analysis and formulated into statements that will be used to construct a second, closed-ended questionnaire. On this questionnaire (round 2) participants will be asked to rate the importance of each statement on a Likert-type rating scale. The Nominal Group technique will be employed during round 3 to achieve consensus, among an expert panel, on a definitive set of priorities relevant to a developing programme of health protection research.

This study commenced in April 2023 and will conclude during October 2023. It is anticipated that early data and results will be available in August 2023 in advance of the National Health Protection Conference. It is further expected that this study will inform the development of a national health protection research strategy that includes both local and international collaboration as outlined in the National Health Protection Strategy 2022-2027.