

We provide evidence to inform the Department of Health's policy on commissioning to maximise outcomes for patients.

Director: Stephen Peckham, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



The new **Policy Research Unit in Commissioning and the Healthcare System (PRUComm)** supports understanding of how commissioning operates. It focuses on how the commissioning can improve services and access, increase effectiveness and respond better to patient needs.

We bring together experts in the study of health services, organisations and commissioning to develop new high quality research programmes. **PRUComm** provides a national resource, holding and analysing evidence on commissioning.

Our partnership

PRUComm brings together researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the University of Manchester. Our researchers have extensive experience that spans a wide range of disciplines, including politics, economics, policy analysis, sociology, health services management and social policy.

Our team

The core **PRUComm** team comprises:

- Stephen Peckham (Director)
- Kath Checkland (Deputy Director)
- Pauline Allen (LSHTM)
- Anna Coleman (University of Manchester)
- Christina Petsoulas (LSHTM)
- Rosalind Miller (LSHTM)

Our skills

- Policy analysis
- Expert research
- Strategy analysis
- Links with DH and regulators
- Data gathering
- Evaluations of interventions
- Optimising the use of evidence

Create Links

We are establishing strong relationships with policy-makers, health regulators, NHS managers and practitioners.

Develop Methodology

We are building sound, credible methods for researching all types of commissioning.

Examine Commissioning

We are studying all aspects of commissioning within the context of the healthcare system.

Communicate Learning

We will share the evidence that we gather with colleagues throughout the healthcare system.

Our projects

Commissioning strategies describes the various commissioning systems operating in the NHS, looking at their development and assessing their impact, using a number of performance measures.

Contracting in commissioning will investigate how commissioners best negotiate, specify, monitor and manage contractual mechanisms. The project looks at both acute services and community healthcare.

Evidence synthesis collects and synthesises research on commissioning in the UK and elsewhere.

Competition, cooperation and commissioning (starting in 2012) will look at commissioning in the context of competition and cooperation, investigating how commissioners manage the interplay of competition and cooperation.

National and local commissioning (starting in 2012) will explore relationships between commissioning agencies at various levels in the NHS. It aims to determine the best ways to secure good coordination across agencies.

Project partners



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The University of Manchester

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