

# HRCS Official Terminology

The Health Research Classification System (HRCS, [www.hrcsonline.net](http://www.hrcsonline.net) ) Health Categories, Research Activities and Guidance Topics contain advice about concepts which can be encountered when coding using the HRCS. However, given that many organisations use the HRCS, the precision of how these have been referred to, reported on and/or stored on system varies.

As part of the review of the HRCS (2016-2018) we have provided the following tables which show the official terminology we recommend using when referring to HRCS categories and codes. In addition, we have provided new alphanumeric unique identifiers (UIDs). These are designed to be attached to metadata stored in management information systems. The aim for both official terminology and UIDs is to provide greater consistency across users, in particular to aid future reporting where data from multiple sources is combined.

Please note that while we have provided official terminology and UIDs for HRCS Guidance Topics, these are not usually 'coded' to awards. The purpose of the HRCS Guidance Topics are to describe how codes are applied in practise under different circumstances, answer frequently asked questions and indicate how the different parts of the HRCS relate to each other. As such, they are considered support for, rather than integral to, HRCS coding by Health Category and Research Activity. However, we are aware that some funders prefer the option of linking HRCS coding with specific guidance topic, hence their inclusion in this list.

The guidance topic labels are listed in alphabetical order. We also recommend using the search function for additional terms.

For further information about the use of HRCS, please [contact us](#).

<b>Group</b>	<b>Full name of category</b>	<b>Short name</b>	<b>Unique ID</b>
Health Category	Blood	Blood	HRCS_HC_01BLO
Health Category	Cancer and neoplasms	Cancer	HRCS_HC_02CAN
Health Category	Cardiovascular	Cardio	HRCS_HC_03CAR
Health Category	Congenital disorders	Congenital	HRCS_HC_04CON
Health Category	Ear	Ear	HRCS_HC_05EAR
Health Category	Eye	Eye	HRCS_HC_06EYE
Health Category	Infection	Infection	HRCS_HC_07INF
Health Category	Inflammatory and immune system	Immune	HRCS_HC_08IMM
Health Category	Injuries and accidents	Injuries	HRCS_HC_09INJ
Health Category	Mental health	Mental	HRCS_HC_10MEN
Health Category	Metabolic and endocrine	Metabolic	HRCS_HC_11MET
Health Category	Musculoskeletal	Muscle	HRCS_HC_12MUS
Health Category	Neurological	Neuro	HRCS_HC_13NEU
Health Category	Oral and gastrointestinal	Oral	HRCS_HC_14ORA
Health Category	Renal and urogenital	Renal	HRCS_HC_15REN
Health Category	Reproductive health and childbirth	Reproduction	HRCS_HC_16REP
Health Category	Respiratory	Respiratory	HRCS_HC_17RES
Health Category	Skin	Skin	HRCS_HC_18SKI
Health Category	Stroke	Stroke	HRCS_HC_19STR
Health Category	Generic health relevance	Generic	HRCS_HC_20GEN
Health Category	Disputed Aetiology and Other	Other	HRCS_HC_21OTH

Group	Full name of code	Short name	Unique ID
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>1 Underpinning research</b>	<b>1 Underpinning</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_1</b>
Research Activity	1.1 Normal biological development and functioning	1.1 Biological	HRCS_RA_1_1
Research Activity	1.2 Psychological and socioeconomic processes	1.2 Psychological	HRCS_RA_1_2
Research Activity	1.3 Chemical and physical sciences	1.3 Physical	HRCS_RA_1_3
Research Activity	1.4 Methodologies and measurements	1.4 Methods	HRCS_RA_1_4
Research Activity	1.5 Resources and infrastructure (underpinning)	1.5 Resources	HRCS_RA_1_5
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>2 Aetiology</b>	<b>2 Aetiology</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_2</b>
Research Activity	2.1 Biological and endogenous factors	2.1 Endogenous risks	HRCS_RA_2_1
Research Activity	2.2 Factors relating to physical environment	2.2 Physical risks	HRCS_RA_2_2
Research Activity	2.3 Psychological, social and economic factors	2.3 Psychological risks	HRCS_RA_2_3
Research Activity	2.4 Surveillance and distribution	2.4 Surveillance	HRCS_RA_2_4
Research Activity	2.5 Research design and methodologies (aetiology)	2.5 Design	HRCS_RA_2_5
Research Activity	2.6 Resources and infrastructure (aetiology)	2.6 Resources	HRCS_RA_2_6

Group	Full name of code	Short name	Unique ID
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>3 Prevention of disease and conditions, and promotion of well-being</b>	<b>3 Prevention</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_3</b>
Research Activity	3.1 Primary prevention interventions to modify behaviours or promote well-being	3.1 Primary prevention	HRCS_RA_3_1
Research Activity	3.2 Interventions to alter physical and biological environmental risks	3.2 Environmental	HRCS_RA_3_2
Research Activity	3.3 Nutrition and chemoprevention	3.3 Nutrition	HRCS_RA_3_3
Research Activity	3.4 Vaccines	3.4 Vaccines	HRCS_RA_3_4
Research Activity	3.5 Resources and infrastructure (prevention)	3.5 Resources	HRCS_RA_3_5
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>4 Detection, screening and diagnosis</b>	<b>4 Detection</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_4</b>
Research Activity	4.1 Discovery and preclinical testing of markers and technologies	4.1 Discovery	HRCS_RA_4_1
Research Activity	4.2 Evaluation of markers and technologies	4.2 Evaluation	HRCS_RA_4_2
Research Activity	4.3 Influences and impact	4.3 Influences	HRCS_RA_4_3
Research Activity	4.4 Population screening	4.4 Screening	HRCS_RA_4_4
Research Activity	4.5 Resources and infrastructure (detection)	4.5 Resources	HRCS_RA_4_5

Group	Full name of code	Short name	Unique ID
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>5 Development of treatments and therapeutic interventions</b>	<b>5 Treatment development</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_5</b>
Research Activity	5.1 Pharmaceuticals	5.1 Pharmaceutical	HRCS_RA_5_1
Research Activity	5.2 Cellular and gene therapies	5.2 Cell and gene therapy	HRCS_RA_5_2
Research Activity	5.3 Medical devices	5.3 Devices	HRCS_RA_5_3
Research Activity	5.4 Surgery	5.4 Surgery	HRCS_RA_5_4
Research Activity	5.5 Radiotherapy and other non-invasive therapies	5.5 Radiotherapy	HRCS_RA_5_5
Research Activity	5.6 Psychological and behavioural	5.6 Psychological	HRCS_RA_5_6
Research Activity	5.7 Physical	5.7 Physical	HRCS_RA_5_7
Research Activity	5.8 Complementary	5.8 Complementary	HRCS_RA_5_8
Research Activity	5.9 Resources and infrastructure (treatment development)	5.9 Resources	HRCS_RA_5_9
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>6 Evaluation of treatments and therapeutic interventions</b>	<b>6 Treatment evaluation</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_6</b>
Research Activity	6.1 Pharmaceuticals	6.1 Pharmaceutical	HRCS_RA_6_1
Research Activity	6.2 Cellular and gene therapies	6.2 Cell and gene therapy	HRCS_RA_6_2
Research Activity	6.3 Medical devices	6.3 Devices	HRCS_RA_6_3
Research Activity	6.4 Surgery	6.4 Surgery	HRCS_RA_6_4
Research Activity	6.5 Radiotherapy and other non-invasive therapies	6.5 Radiotherapy	HRCS_RA_6_5
Research Activity	6.6 Psychological and behavioural	6.6 Psychological	HRCS_RA_6_6
Research Activity	6.7 Physical	6.7 Physical	HRCS_RA_6_7
Research Activity	6.8 Complementary	6.8 Complementary	HRCS_RA_6_8
Research Activity	6.9 Resources and infrastructure (treatment evaluation)	6.9 Resources	HRCS_RA_6_9



Group	Full name of code	Short name	Unique ID
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>7 Management of diseases and conditions</b>	<b>7 Disease management</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_7</b>
Research Activity	7.1 Individual care needs	7.1 Individual needs	HRCS_RA_7_1
Research Activity	7.2 End of life care	7.2 Palliative	HRCS_RA_7_2
Research Activity	7.3 Management and decision making	7.3 Management	HRCS_RA_7_3
Research Activity	7.4 Resources and infrastructure (disease management)	7.4 Resources	HRCS_RA_7_4
<b>Research Activity Group</b>	<b>8 Health and social care services research</b>	<b>8 Health services</b>	<b>HRCS_RAG_8</b>
Research Activity	8.1 Organisation and delivery of services	8.1 Delivery	HRCS_RA_8_1
Research Activity	8.2 Health and welfare economics	8.2 Economics	HRCS_RA_8_2
Research Activity	8.3 Policy, ethics and research governance	8.3 Governance	HRCS_RA_8_3
Research Activity	8.4 Research design and methodologies (health services)	8.4 Design	HRCS_RA_8_4
Research Activity	8.5 Resources and infrastructure (health services)	8.5 Resources	HRCS_RA_8_5



Full name of guidance topic	Short Name	Unique ID
Ageing	Ageing	HRCS_GT_AGE
Alcohol consumption	Alcohol	HRCS_GT_ALC
Animal welfare and replacing animals in research	Animal welfare	HRCS_GT_ANI
Atherosclerosis	Atherosclerosis	HRCS_GT_ATH
Biomarkers and screening	Biomarkers	HRCS_GT_BIO
Cachexia in chronic diseases and chemotherapy	Cachexia	HRCS_GT_CAC
Cancer and conditions predisposing to cancer	Cancer	HRCS_GT_CAN
Case study and tracer examples	Case studies	HRCS_GT_CAS
Cell cycle and DNA repair	Cell and DNA	HRCS_GT_CEL
Cerebral palsy and spina bifida	Cerebral palsy and spina bifida	HRCS_GT_CER
Cholesterol	Cholesterol	HRCS_GT_CHO
Co-morbidities	Co-morbidities	HRCS_GT_COM
Congenital disorders and inherited syndromes	Congenital GT	HRCS_GT_CON
Developmental biology	Developmental	HRCS_GT_DEV
Diet, obesity and nutrition	Diet	HRCS_GT_DIE
Ear and hearing	Ear GT	HRCS_GT_EAR
Economic evaluation components in trials	Economic	HRCS_GT_ECO
Education	Education	HRCS_GT_EDU
Eye and vision	Eye GT	HRCS_GT_EYE
Foetal development, pregnancy and 'in utero' studies	Foetal	HRCS_GT_FOE
Immunology and the immune system	Immunology	HRCS_GT_IMM
Infectious diseases	Infection GT	HRCS_GT_INF
Informatics, bioinformatics and 'big data'	Informatics	HRCS_GT_DAT
Liver	Liver	HRCS_GT_LIV
Methodologies, measurements and research designs	Methodology	HRCS_GT_MET
Multiple diseases and categories	Multiple diseases	HRCS_GT_MUL
Muscle and the neuromuscular junction	Neuromuscular	HRCS_GT_MUS
Neuropsychology	Neuropsychology	HRCS_GT_PSY
Nutritional and vitamin supplements	Nutritional	HRCS_GT_NUT
Pain	Pain	HRCS_GT_PAI
Pharmaceuticals outside the therapeutic context	Pharmaceutical	HRCS_GT_PHA
Physical activity and exercise	Exercise	HRCS_GT_EXE
Policy	Policy	HRCS_GT_POL
Pollution, radiation and environmental hazards	Pollution	HRCS_GT_ENV
Prevention - Differentiating secondary and primary prevention	Prevention GT	HRCS_GT_PRE
Prions - TSEs, BSE, CJD and prion protein	Prions	HRCS_GT_PRI
Pulmonary Hypertension	PHT	HRCS_GT_PHT
Quality of life components in trials	Quality of life	HRCS_GT_QOL
Resources and infrastructure	Resources	HRCS_GT_RES
Sepsis	Sepsis	HRCS_GT_SEP
Sequelae, consequences and side effects	Sequelae	HRCS_GT_SEQ
Sexual health	Sexual health	HRCS_GT_SEX
Sleep and studies of sleep disorders	Sleep	HRCS_GT_SLE
Smoking and tobacco	Smoking	HRCS_GT_SMO
Stem cells	Stem cells	HRCS_GT_STE
Stratified medicine, precision medicine and personalised medicine	Strat Med	HRCS_GT_SPM
Substance misuse and addiction	Substances	HRCS_GT_ADD
Surgical procedures	Surgery	HRCS_GT_SUR
Systematic reviews	Systematic	HRCS_GT_SYS
Thromboses and embolisms	Thromboses	HRCS_GT_THR
Treatment effectiveness	Treatment effectiveness	HRCS_GT_TRE
Trials	Trials	HRCS_GT_TRI
Vasculitis	Vasculitis	HRCS_GT_VAS
Vertigo and disorders of balance	Vertigo	HRCS_GT_VER
Wounds and healing	Wounds	HRCS_GT_WOU