# The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (CRF): Inclusive Research examples

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| **Case Title** | The Manchester Measuring Inequalities Toolkit |
| **BRC Cluster(s)** | Advanced Diagnostics and Therapeutics Catalyst, Cancer, Under-researched Conditions, and Inflammation. |
| **BRC Theme(s)** | Next Generation Therapeutics, Next Generation Phenotyping and Diagnostics, Cancer Prevention and Early Detection, Advanced Radiotherapy, Cancer Precision Medicine and Living With and Beyond Cancer, Hearing Health, Mental Health, Rare Conditions, Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases, Respiratory Medicine, Dermatology, Integrative Cardiovascular Medicine |
| **Inclusive Research Element** | Capacity Building |
| **Rationale for case study** | The Manchester Measuring Inequalities Toolkit was developed to address the pressing need for expertise in measuring inequalities. The toolkit not only seeks to inform but also emphasises the importance of Inclusive Research in understanding complex disparities. |
| **Background** | Given the intricate nature of inequalities, which frequently intersect with multiple health conditions and social determinants of health, we identified the need for a comprehensive training programme. The aim was to design an accessible and inclusive online platform to empower researchers, public health professionals, and policymakers with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand and measure inequalities. By improving the understanding and measuring of these inequalities, the toolkit plays an indirect role in fostering the development of more nuanced and inclusive diagnostic instruments and strategies. |
| **What we did** | • Needs Assessment: Carried out surveys and interviews with potential users of the toolkit to discern primary learning objectives and barriers to training access.<br>• Co-produced Curriculum: Joined forces with inequality experts, educational specialists, and potential future end users to draft the curriculum.<br>• Programme Development: Developed an interactive training programme using an online platform with a range of learning materials, such as video tutorials, real-world case studies, and quizzes.<br>• Pilot Phase: Ran a pilot test with a select group of users, gathering feedback for iterative refinements. |
| **What the outcome(s) is/are** | Anticipated Outcomes:<br>• Enhanced Expertise: Equip a diverse range of professionals, researchers, and policymakers with advanced skills and knowledge in measuring and analysing inequalities, leading to a heightened level of expertise in this critical field.<br>• Improved Practices: Foster the application of more rigorous, nuanced, and equitable approaches to inequality measurement across different sectors. This includes the adoption of best practices in data collection, analysis, and interpretation.<br>• Data-Driven Decisions: Promote the use of evidence-based decision-making in policy and practice. By providing robust tools and methodologies for inequality measurement, the toolkit aims to inform and influence policies and interventions that effectively address disparities in the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. |

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| **Conclusions** | The Manchester Measuring Inequalities Toolkit addresses the intricate interplay between health conditions and social determinants of health, essential in sectors focusing on complex health issues and diagnostic advancements. By equipping professionals with the skills to understand and analyse disparities in outcomes, the toolkit hopes to enhance the precision and inclusivity of healthcare solutions. It emphasises inclusive and accessible learning and not only to broaden understanding but also drive collaborative efforts to tackle multifaceted health inequalities, potentially paving the way for more equitable healthcare practices. |
| **Recommendations** | Once completed, this will be made freely available on the University of Manchester Lifelong Learning platform for everyone to access.<br><br>• Periodic Updates: Ensure the toolkit remains updated with the latest research findings and real-world case studies.<br>• Broaden Scope: Contemplate broadening the programme to encompass related topics, such as the policy ramifications of health inequalities and strategies for community-centric engagement.<br>• Forge Partnerships: Initiate collaborations with academics and public health entities to amplify the toolkit's outreach and impact. |
| **Future work** | • Impact Analysis: Undertake a thorough study to gauge the toolkit's influence on users' professional practices and their grasp of health and other disparities.<br>• Community Development: Foster a vibrant community of practice where users can exchange insights, collaborate, and collectively enhance their approaches to health inequality measurement and intervention. |