

The UKCRN Clinical Research Portfolio

The UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN) is developing a database (known as ‘the UKCRN Portfolio’) of clinical research studies, which meet specific eligibility criteria, being undertaken in the UK. It comprises of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio in England, and the corresponding portfolios of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Which studies are eligible to be included in the UKCRN Portfolio?

Each of the four UK nations are developing specific eligibility criteria for studies that can be included in their respective portfolios. This document addresses the eligibility of studies for the NIHR Portfolio.

In England, the Department of Health has determined that studies (clinical trials and other well designed studies which involve the NHS) that are funded by NIHR, other areas of Government, and NIHR non-commercial Partners are automatically eligible to be included in the Portfolio. NIHR Partners are those organisations that:

- award research funds as a result of open competition across England with high quality peer review
- fund research that is of clear value to the NHS
- have strategic direction for the research that they fund.

In addition other studies, such as commercially sponsored studies or those with industry funding which are led by an academic investigator, may be considered for inclusion in the Portfolio by undergoing an adoption process.

Full details are included in the NIHR eligibility paper, available to download from the UKCRN website at www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new/P_eligibility.html

What are the benefits of studies being in the UKCRN Portfolio?

UKCRN aims to build a complete picture of the clinical research which is currently taking place across the UK in order to manage the allocation of NHS infrastructure funding. Targeting resources to support the recruitment and follow-up of patients in clinical trials and other well designed studies will increase the timeliness, data collection and quality of the research by building skill and expertise in the research workforce to undertake research with continuity of support.

Studies included in the NIHR Portfolio have access to **infrastructure support** via the NIHR Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (through the Comprehensive Local Research Networks, CLRN), and, where relevant, the Topic Specific and the Primary Care Clinical Research Networks. This infrastructure support covers study promotion, set up, recruitment and follow up by Network staff.

Only those studies that are part of the UKCRN Portfolio will have **access to this infrastructure support and to NHS service support costs**, therefore it is crucial that all studies which are eligible are included.

The UKCRN is also currently working with internationally recognised Trial Registries with the aim that the data submitted to UKCRN for Portfolio registration will be sufficient to achieve trial registration which is compliant with WHO registration criteria.

www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new.html



How is study information being collected?

The UKCRN Coordinating Centre is currently working with funding bodies, Chief Investigators, Clinical Trials Units and Study Coordinators to ensure that all relevant studies are included in the Portfolio. You may have already received a request for information about your study and will need to complete an Initial Project Registration Proforma in order for the study to be considered for inclusion on the Portfolio. This form, along with notes for completion, is available at:

www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new/P_how.html

How can I check if my study is already included and what if it isn't?

Information in the UKCRN Portfolio is contained in a web-based database which is searchable via the UKCRN website at <http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search/>. The database can be searched by Study Coordinator/Chief Investigator, study title/acronym, subject area, UKCRN Study ID number and there is a free text option which allows users to search the Research Summary information.

The database currently contains a large number of potentially eligible studies with varying degrees of data completion and accuracy. If your study has been accepted into the Portfolio, this will be confirmed on the database (indicated as "Funded by UKCRC Partner" under the "Portfolio Eligibility" heading). For studies which fall within the NIHR Comprehensive Clinical Research Network, a letter will have been sent to the Chief Investigator/Study Coordinator to confirm acceptance on the NIHR Portfolio.

If your study is on the database and marked as "potential CRN study" then this is because either: the minimum dataset requirements have not been fulfilled (as set out on the Initial Project Registration Proforma); or we have yet to confirm that your study is eligible for inclusion in the Portfolio.

If your study is not included in the database or is in the database but does not have a completed minimum dataset, please visit the UKCRN website at: www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new/P_how.html, complete the Initial Study Registration Proforma and submit this to the UKCRN Coordinating Centre via email (portfolio@ukcrn.org.uk). It will then be checked for eligibility and confirmation will be given on whether or not your study has been included on the Portfolio.



Why do I need to submit accrual data for my study?

The UKCRN is committed to improving the clinical research infrastructure across the UK and to make this more accessible so that more patients can benefit from being part of a research study. Accrual data are part of the key performance indicators which are being used to demonstrate the success of the networks and will also feed in to the process of allocating future funding to the CLRNs to ensure that infrastructure resources are directed to where they are required.

Once your study has been confirmed as being accepted into the Portfolio, you will be asked to provide us with accrual data from April 2007 and then on an ongoing basis.

Accrual data are now routinely collected for studies being undertaken in the Topic and Primary Care Research Networks and are also required for studies which are part of the Comprehensive Clinical Research Network Portfolio.

How can I find out more?

If you have any questions or would like further information regarding any aspect of the Portfolio, please contact the UKCRN Coordinating Centre on portfolio@ukcrn.org.uk or visit the UKCRN website www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new.html.

