



The UKCRN Portfolio

CRN National Meeting, 8 May 2007

UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN)

What is the UKCRN Portfolio?



- A national register of all eligible studies
 - NIHR portfolio in England – eligibility defined by DH
 - Portfolios in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
 - UK-wide working within portfolios
- Includes multi-centre and single centre studies
- Includes commercial and non-commercial studies

What does inclusion of a study in the NIHR portfolio mean?



- Primary route to access NHS support costs in England
- Automatic access to both Service Support Costs via the NIHR CRN and to Treatment Costs via the normal arrangements for commissioning patients care in England
- UKCRN funded staff can work on those studies
- CLRNs decide in discussion with UKCRN Coordinating Centre which studies to participate in
- Not mandatory for clinicians in each CLRN to participate in every study
- Strong preference for CLRNs to fully commit to portfolio

Development of Portfolio



- Within the Topic-specific Networks and Primary Care Network – work ongoing to identify and create portfolio
- All other areas of health care and disease – project underway to identify relevant studies by search of NRR database, UKCRC partner websites, links with funders and chief investigators to identify new studies and collect data for the portfolio database

Problems encountered in identifying CRN studies



- Poor quality of data on NRR e.g. ‘invented’ start and end dates if not known
- Duplication of studies – some studies recorded as single centre are actually multi-centre
- Uncertainty about eligibility of funders for NIHR portfolio
- May include some which are not eligible and miss others which are

Eligibility for NIHR portfolio



- Basic requirements – funded in open national competition and with independent peer review
- Automatic – NIHR partners e.g. MRC, DH, major charities
- High priority with adoption process – industry sponsored studies
- Medium priority with adoption process – e.g. EU or internationally funded studies
- Under discussion – industry collaborative studies, student projects

TCRN Studies in UKCRN Portfolio



Topic	Number of studies identified to date
Cancer	268
Diabetes	31
Dementias and Neurodegenerative Diseases	14
Medicines for Children	26
Mental Health	28
Primary Care	13
Stroke	32

Current non-commercial UKCRN portfolio in non-TCRN areas (in set-up or open and potentially eligible)



Topic	Number of studies identified to date
Blood	26
Cardiovascular	119
Congenital Disorders	5
Ear	5
Eye	37
Generic Health Relevance	146
Infection	119
Inflammatory and Immune	5
Injuries and Accidents	20
Metabolic and Endocrine	19
Musculoskeletal	185
Neurological	50
Oral and GI	18
Renal and Urogenital	47
Reproductive Health	45
Respiratory	74
Skin	20
TOTAL	940

Next steps



- Liaise with Chief Investigators to confirm study details
- Add further study information to Portfolio Database for identified studies
- Identify any missing potentially eligible studies
- Confirm eligibility of studies (by end Sept 2007)
- Add newly funded studies prospectively
- Collect accrual data (from Oct 2007)

Where do I find information about studies in the Portfolio?



- UKCRN Portfolio Database
 - Register of studies – non-TCRN studies currently provisional
 - Key to access to TCRN and PCRN resources and NHS Support Costs via CLRN
 - Basis of performance management of TCRNs, PCRN, CLRN and UKCRN
 - Study information – study title, eligibility criteria, name of CI, contact details etc
 - Accrual data – UK-wide
- Conforms to WHO and ICJME trial registration requirements
- Integration with NIHR IS programme

Who manages the NIHR Portfolio?



- Identification of eligible studies and obtaining study information and accrual data
 - TCRN studies - Topic-Specific Research Networks
 - PCRN and CRN – UKCRN Coordinating Centre
- Requires provision of information by Chief Investigators/Study Coordinators

Links with funding bodies



- UKCRN liaising with NHIR Partners to enable funders to:
 - understand what CRN can offer
 - make it explicit that relevant studies once funded will be part of NIHR Portfolio
 - use UKCRN Portfolio Database as monitoring tool for progress reviews of funded studies
- UKCRC/AMRC/UKCRN meeting on 22 June

Background to UKCRC CTU Registration Process



UKCRN based on ‘whole systems approach’ involving;

- Funders
- Local Research Networks
- Clinical researchers
- Patients and the public
- Methodological underpinning and support of clinical research – ‘Clinical Trials Units’ or ‘CTUs’
 - Expertise in design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials and other well designed studies is essential
 - To ensure high quality and successful conduct
 - To meet regulatory and governance requirements
 - To lead, develop and manage the research activity within UKCRC and UKCRN

Clinical Trials Units



- UKCRC needs 'CTUs'
 - To be integrated
 - To be adequately resourced
 - To perform to high standards
 - To provide sufficient capacity

- UKCRC supports overall aims of building capacity and raising standards

Benefits to CTUs



- Access to and with integration with UKCRC and UKCRN structures and systems
- Forum to work together and lead the development of national approaches to coordination of clinical research
- Contribution to the development of cost-effective approaches to the implementation of new regulations
- Forum to meet and discuss issues and raise problems on a national level
- National profile as a UKCRC-Registered CTU

Benefits to Investigators



- Clearer lines of communication
- Transparent system that is easy to access
- Access to relevant expertise in design, conduct and analysis of clinical research and other relevant disciplines
- Methodological underpinning to develop a portfolio of studies

Next steps



- Call for CTU Registration - 28 March 2007
- Deadline for applications - 1 June 2007
- International review panel - September 2007
- Full and provisional registration
- Database of UKCRC-Registered CTUs on UKCRN web site
- Network existing expertise
- Identify further resource needs



Any Questions?

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