



The UKCRN Portfolio

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What is the UKCRN Portfolio?

- A national register of all eligible studies
 - DH have defined 'eligible' for England – NIHR portfolio
 - 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



NIHR: Definition of a study

- A research study is a structured activity which is intended to provide new knowledge which is generalisable (i.e. of value to others in a similar situation) and intended for wider dissemination
- This includes research funded by NIHR that requires NHS Service Support but excludes audit, needs assessment, quality improvement and other local service based work

Eligibility for inclusion of studies in the NIHR Portfolio



- In future the NIHR CRN will be the only route for access to NHS Service Support Costs in England
- All studies must already have full research funding before they can be included in the Portfolio
- Research Costs cannot be provided by the UKCRN

What does inclusion of a study in the portfolio mean?



- Only 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
- CLRN agree which studies to participate in in discussion with UKCRN Coordinating Centre
- Not mandatory for clinicians in each CLRN to participate in every study
- Strong preference for CLRNs to fully commit to portfolio

Early phase trials and experimental medicine studies



- Focus of NIHR support is through Clinical Research facilities, Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres and Biomedical Research Centres
- NIHR CRN will provide NHS Service support for research funded by NIHR partners to be conducted in the NHS outside these centres



Eligibility criteria

- All studies must have full funding and central sign off (confirmation that all the necessary approvals are in place)
- Five types of studies



1. **Studies that are automatically eligible and have a high priority**

- Studies funded by the NIHR, other areas of Government, and NIHR non-commercial Partners

- NIHR Partners are organisations that:
 - award research funds as a result of open competition across England with high quality peer review; and
 - fund research that is of clear value to the NHS; and
 - have strategic direction for the research that they fund

- If part of a programme grant the protocol will need to have been peer reviewed



2. Studies that require formal consideration but if accepted have a high priority

- Studies sponsored by industry
- Specific adoption process developed with the UKCRC Industry Road Map Group (to be managed by UKCRN Coordinating Centre for CRN)
- Involves full cost recovery from industry



3. **Studies that require formal consideration and if accepted have a medium priority**

- Studies funded by overseas governments (e.g. US NIH, EU)
- Considered formally in relation to the criteria set out earlier
 - award research funds as a result of open competition with high quality peer review; and
 - fund research that is of clear value to the NHS; and
 - have strategic direction for the research that they fund
- Will require formal Adoption Process (to be managed by UKCRN Coordinating Centre for CRN)



4. **Studies that require formal consideration and if accepted have a lower priority**

- Other high quality studies may merit NHS Service Support (e.g. EORTC studies)
- Considered formally in relation to the criteria set out earlier
- NIHR Local Research Networks that are performing well in supporting high priority studies may support these studies if sufficient capacity is available
- Will require formal Adoption Process (to be managed by UKCRN Coordinating Centre for CRN)



5. Collaborative studies with industry

- NHS R&D Partnership Agreement with the Pharmaceutical Industry sets out ways in which industry may collaborate with DH/NHS on health research
- Agreement is currently being updated
- Intention is to include investigator-initiated industry-funded trials



Development of Portfolio

- Within the Topic-specific Networks and Primary Care Network – work ongoing to 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
- May include some which are not eligible and miss others which are



Results to date

- NRR 158,000 studies reduced to 13,500 (9,000 multi centre)
- Work ongoing!!!

Where do I find information about studies in the Portfolio?



- **UKCRN Portfolio Database**
 - Register of studies
 - Key to access to TCRN and PCRN resources and NHS Support Costs via CLRN
 - Basis of performance management of TCRNs, PCRNs, 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 responsible
 - PCRN and CRN – UKCRN Coordinating Centre responsible
- Requires provision of information from 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



Any Questions?

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