

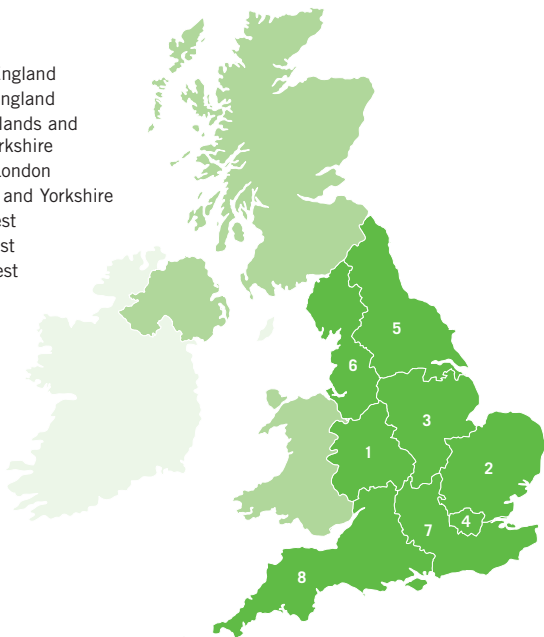
Covering the whole of England

The PCRN comprises eight local research networks, all headed by prominent primary care clinicians. The local networks are managed and coordinated by the PCRN Coordinating Team embedded within the NIHR CRN Coordinating Centre. The networks provide complete geographic coverage of the whole of England meaning that primary care practitioners and patients wherever they may be can get involved in research.

The local networks provide highly trained clinical studies officers and research nurses who will help facilitate research in a primary care setting in areas such as:

- Disease prevention
- Health promotion
- Screening
- Early presentation of illness
- Management of long term conditions

- 1 Central England
- 2 East of England
- 3 East Midlands and South Yorkshire
- 4 Greater London
- 5 Northern and Yorkshire
- 6 North West
- 7 South East
- 8 South West



Contact us

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Primary Care Research Network



Primary Care Research Network

The Primary Care Research Network (PCRN) has been established in England as part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to enable the delivery of a key element of the Government's Research Strategy "Best Research for Best Health."

PCRN's aims are to:

- improve the evidence base for primary care
- inform the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of illness and disease in primary care
- facilitate and increase the participation of general practices, primary care practitioners and patients in research.

What studies does PCRN support?

The Department of Health has set criteria for the studies which can obtain PCRN support. Clinical trials and other well-designed studies automatically qualify for inclusion on the NIHR Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) Portfolio if they are funded by the NIHR, other areas of Government, and NIHR non-commercial partners. NIHR partners are those organisations which:

- fund in open national competition
- fund research that is of clear value to the NHS
- have strategic direction for the research that they fund.

Studies which qualify for inclusion on the portfolio under these criteria will have access to NHS service support resources.

PCRN will also consider for adoption studies funded by industry, by overseas Governments, and collaborative studies with industry funding which are academically led.

What can PCRN offer me?

As a primary care practitioner:

- Opportunities to be involved in research across a broad range of specialties and interests
- Confidence that studies will be of high quality and important to the NHS
- Free access to NIHR CRN training including training in Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
- Access to NHS service support resources to enable primary care sites to become involved in NIHR CRN Portfolio research.

As a researcher:

- Practical support for your study
- Help with research governance and regulatory approvals
- Access to NHS service support resources
- Free access to NIHR CRN training opportunities.

As a patient:

- Information on what research is going on in your area
- Structured access to developing treatments
- Opportunity to help define what research should be conducted in your area
- Free access to NIHR CRN training opportunities.

What about industry studies?

The NIHR CRN has established a dedicated team to address the specific challenges and pressures faced by the healthcare industry in successfully delivering their research and development projects through the NHS. PCRN works closely with this team to ensure we understand the needs of commercial researchers and are able to respond in a timely and effective fashion. PCRN welcomes contact from companies wishing to conduct research in a primary care setting and will assess proposed studies to see if they can be supported. The criteria considered include:

- is there a genuine and testable hypothesis with a possible future benefit for patients as its objective?
- is there a statistically valid trial design?
- has there been an adequate peer review process?
- are there sufficient patient numbers?
- is there sufficient investigator interest?

Studies that are accepted into the portfolio in this way will require full cost recovery from industry.

