

NIHR CRN High Level Objectives Quarterly Summary Report 2015-16

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Delivering research to make patients,
and the NHS, better

Preface

Scope of the NIHR CRN HLOs Performance Summary Report

This document sets out the NIHR Clinical Research Network's (NIHR CRN) performance against its High Level Objectives for the period 1 July to 30 September 2015 (Quarter 2) and a refreshed data set for 01 April 2015 – 30 June 2015 (Quarter 1).

This document is produced by the CRN Coordinating Centre, which is responsible for collating and publishing performance data for the NIHR CRN as a whole.

The High Level Objectives (HLOs) are the Network's national, overarching annual objectives for research delivery in the NHS. The HLOs form one element of the suite of performance indicators which are used to assess the Network's performance. Performance against the other elements of the Network's Performance Framework (Clinical Research Network Specialty Objectives, Host Performance Indicators and Operating Framework Compliance Indicators) will be reported on an annual basis to the Department of Health.

The information contained in the document represents the most complete information available at the time of publication.

The data presented in this document may be quoted in presentations and papers. However, we ask that the title and issue date of the report are used, to avoid any confusion about the period to which the figures relate and the time at which the data were reported.

Red/Amber/Green (RAG) ratings

The RAG thresholds used throughout the document are:

- Red: less than 90% of the annual performance target
- Amber: 90% or more of the annual performance target but less than 100% of the annual performance target
- Green: 100% or more of the annual performance target

Further information

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High Level Objectives Performance Data (1 April - 30 September 2015)

High Level Objectives Performance Quarter 2 2015/16								Previous Trends		
HLO	2015/16							2013/14	2014/15	2014/15 Difference from Target
	Annual Target	Quarterly Target	Quarter 1 Performance	Quarter 1 Performance Refreshed in Quarter 2 [1]	Quarter 2 Performance	Quarter 2 Difference from Quarterly Target	Quarter 2 Year to Date			
1	650,000	162,500	133,684	151,623	158,118	-2.7%	309,741	604,216	618,453	-5%
2A	80%	80%	52%	62%	63%	-17.0%	63%	73%	63%	-17%
2B	80%	80%	67%	70%	65%	-15.0%	68%	78%	76%	-4%
3A	600	150	145	178	146	-2.7%	324	533	623	4%
3B	75%	75%	68%	82%	50%	-25.0%	75%	82%	82%	7%
4	80%	80%	83%	83%	81%	1.0%	82%	77%	83%	3%
5A	80%	80%	45%	41%	67%	-13.0%	46%	58%	63%	-17%
5B	80%	80%	46%	46%	43%	-37.0%	45%	44%	50%	-30%
6A	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	0.0%	99%	100%	98%	-1%
6B	70%	70%	65%	66%	70%	0.0%	70%	86%	78%	8%
6C	25%	25%	16%	16%	28%	3.0%	28%		41%	16%
7	13,500	3,375	6,079	7,128	6,829	102.3%	13,957	13,583	21,449	59%

[1] Prior to 2015-16 recruitment data was refreshed on an annual basis only. Since 1 April 2015 recruitment data is refreshed on a quarterly basis therefore, the refreshed data presented for a particular quarter may differ to that previously presented for the same quarter.

Performance analysis

The High Level Objectives (HLOs) are the Network's national, overarching annual objectives for research delivery in the NHS. The NIHR CRN reports progress against annual performance on a quarterly basis. Caution should therefore be exercised in interpreting the performance at mid-year (Quarter 1 & 2) as a definitive indicator of annual performance. The NIHR CRN is taking action in specific areas to address under-performance and continues to work towards meeting the HLOs.

The NIHR CRN is also providing refreshed data for previous Quarters in 2015/16, to determine a more accurate picture of annual performance throughout the year.

HLO 1 158,118 participants were recruited into clinical research studies in 2015/16 Q2 which is greater than the quarterly average for 2014/15 (154,613). The quarterly refreshed data indicates that the number of participants recruited for Q1 also increased, and Q2 has had the highest proportion of recruitment uploaded to date. We are working towards our recruitment target of 650,000 participants, however the profile of studies on the NIHR CRN Portfolio is evolving, with increased numbers of complex, interventional studies. Evidence shows that in 2014/15 the median study recruitment sample size fell to 100 compared to 160 in 2008/09 however the number of non-commercial studies has remained constant. This highlights the challenges associated with meeting the recruitment target of 650,000 participants

HLO 2A The proportion of commercial contract studies achieving recruitment to time and target was 63% in 2015/16 Q2. This remains static from 2014/15, however the NIHR CRN has a specific action plan in place to drive continued improvements in performance which will come to fruition later in 2015/16.

HLO 2B The proportion of non-commercial studies achieving recruitment to time and target was 65% in Q2 2015/16. While this is slightly down from 2014/15, the NIHR CRN has a plan in place to more actively manage non-commercial study data and the LCRNs continue to focus on improving delivery to time and target.

HLO 3A 146 new commercial contract studies were added to the NIHR CRN Portfolio in 2015/16 Q2. The annual target is 600 new studies and we are on track to achieve this (324 year to date).

HLO 3B 50% of commercial contract studies were supported by the NIHR CRN in 2015/16 Q1, compared to the total number of commercial MHRA CTA approvals for Phase II–IV studies. Variance in the number of CTA approvals coupled with the timing of actual entry onto the NIHR CRN Portfolio can affect the percentage quarter on quarter. We are on track to achieve our annual target of 75% (75% year to date).

HLO 4 81% of eligible studies obtained all NHS permissions within 40 calendar days at all study sites (from receipt of a valid complete application by NIHR CRN) in 2015/16 Q2. High performance in study set up is maintained from 2014/15 despite the uncertainty in the Research Management & Governance community about the impact of the introduction of HRA Approval¹ and the decommissioning of the NIHR Coordinated System for gaining NHS Permission (CSP).

¹ Please see the Health Research Authority website for further details.
<http://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-the-hra/our-plans-and-projects/assessment-approval/>

HLO 5A 67% of commercial contract studies achieved first participant recruited within 30 calendar days in 2015/16 Q2. While performance is currently down from 2014/15 the importance of delivering against the NIHR PID targets² will continue to focus sites on rapid first participant recruitment.

HLO 5B 43% of non-commercial studies achieved first participant recruited within 30 calendar days in 2015/16 Q2. While performance is currently down from 2014/15 the importance of delivering against the NIHR PID targets will continue to focus sites on rapid first participant recruitment.

HLO 6A 99% of NHS Trusts recruited into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies within 2015/16 Q2. This is a cumulative annual measure therefore we are on track to meet the 99% annual target.

HLO 6B 70% of NHS Trusts recruited to commercial contract studies within 2015/16 Q2. This is a cumulative annual measure therefore we are on track to meet the 70% annual target.

HLO 6C 28% of General Medical Practices were recruiting into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies within 2015/16 Q2. This is a cumulative annual measure where any GP practice that has actively recruited to NIHR CRN Portfolio studies within 2015/16, is included in this metric, therefore we are on track to exceed the 25% annual target.

HLO 7 6,829 participants were recruited into Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) studies within 2015/16 Q2. This surpasses the quarterly target of 3,375 participants recruited, with increasing numbers of people recruited through Join Dementia Research.

² This is the Department of Health performance measure that any NHS organisation that holds an NIHR contract has to deliver against