

**National Institute for  
Health Research****BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH****IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 4.1b****BUREAUCRACY BUSTING:  
ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH NETWORKS**

*Best Research for Best Health*<sup>1</sup> set out a 5-year Research and Development Strategy for the NHS in England. This Implementation Plan provides more details on one element of the systems underpinning the National Institute for Health Research. Implementation Plan 4.1a summarises the actions we are taking to streamline research management and Implementation Plan 4.1b gives more detail about the role of research networks. This document will be regularly updated. The latest version should be used.

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**Aim**

- To support a vibrant and efficient research environment that commands public confidence and ensures good governance through:
  - world-class research networks; and
  - action to simplify processes and save time.

**Nature**

- A key function of the NIHR Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (CCRN) is to support and streamline research management to deliver proper governance.
- The NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre (CRN CC) (previously known as the UKCRN CC) coordinates research management for the NIHR in the NHS.
- The research-active NHS organisations that constitute the CCRN work together, locally and nationally, using R&D management approaches which minimise bureaucracy and maximise efficiency.
- NIHR networks share common procedures, integrated national R&D information systems, streamlined HR arrangements for Honorary Research Contracts (HRCs) and a national expert advice service.

<sup>1</sup> *Best Research for Best Health: A New National Health Research Strategy*. The NHS contribution to health research in England. Department of Health. 2006.

- CCRN Local Research Networks (CLRNs) deploy R&D management expertise to deliver proper governance.

### **Detail**

#### **NIHR Clinical Research Network NHS research management unit**

- During 2007, a unit for NHS research management was established in the NIHR CRN CC.
- This unit is working with the Department of Health, the NHS, and UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) partners to:
  - deliver, on behalf of the NHS in England, coordinated and streamlined arrangements for gaining NHS permission;
  - develop systems to oversee research management within CCRN;
  - monitor the impact of new regulation on behalf of the NIHR.

#### **The NIHR Comprehensive Clinical Research Network provides nationally networked NHS R&D management**

- The CLRNs were established during 2007.
- From 2008, CLRNs began deploying research management expertise to support and manage high-quality research with proper governance.
- Research management functions are distributed in the organisations within CLRNs as appropriate.
- CLRNs coordinate and streamline R&D management across their individual areas.
- Research managers within CCRN work together to deliver a national service. CLRNs share national standard procedures, supported by integrated national R&D information systems.

For organisational structures and functions, see Implementation Plan 5.1a NIHR Comprehensive Clinical Research Network for England.

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