



**National Institute for
Health Research**

BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 4.1c

BUREAUCRACY BUSTING: NIHR COORDINATED SYSTEM FOR GAINING NHS PERMISSION (CSP)

*Best Research for Best Health*¹ 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. Plan 4.1c details work to create a coordinated system for gaining NHS permission. This document will be regularly updated. The latest version should be used.

Version: 7

Issue date: January 2010

Planned revision & re-issue date: July 2010

Aim

- To provide a clinical trial clearing-house function to act as a “one-stop shop” thereby reducing bureaucracy for studies intended for the NIHR Portfolio.

Nature

- The NIHR Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) has developed a coordinated process to streamline NHS permission.
- The NIHR Coordinated System for gaining NHS Permission (CSP) Unit at the NIHR CRN Coordinating Centre coordinates this process.
- The process applies to NHS permissions for all clinical trials and other well-designed studies (commercial and non-commercial) intended for inclusion in the NIHR Portfolio.
- The NIHR CRN leads the development of standard processes for both multi-centre and single-centre studies funded by the NIHR or its partners intended for inclusion in the NIHR portfolio.

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

- The NIHR CSP links with other processes to establish that a study is eligible for the NIHR Portfolio, is feasible at the intended NHS sites, and is feasible in other respects.
- The NIHR CSP provides assurances to NHS hosts that the necessary preparations and checks have been completed, and that there is appropriate evidence of all the regulatory approvals, so that the NHS body can move quickly to confirm its permission and sign other agreements enabling a study to begin. It also ensures that a minimum set of information and documentation is available electronically to NIHR networks and NHS organisations that need it.

Implementation

- Assisted by a working group, the NIHR CRN Coordinating Centre developed outline descriptions of the process.
- The NIHR CRN CC established a project Oversight Group to oversee and advise on project development and delivery.
- The NIHR CRN CC carried out a series of pilot studies and consultations to evaluate the proposed process, and developed operating guidelines.
- The NIHR CRN led a planned programme of communication, engagement, testing and training before the NIHR brought the new system into operation in November 2008. On 14 January 2009, the first study successfully completed the coordinated process. From April 2009, NIHR CSP is the standard process for all studies supported by the NIHR.
- The NIHR CRN is developing detailed standard operating procedures for use by local NHS research management staff to ensure a consistent process. The group overseeing the CSP is taking stock of experience since the system was launched. Discussion of this experience, and of other information requirements for local NHS research management, will inform the design of the NIHR R&D Management Information System.
- NIHR CSP is available for all studies included in the NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio. Researchers whose studies are not eligible for the Portfolio should continue to seek permission directly from the NHS organisations involved in the study.

Further information

Further details about the NIHR CSP is available on the NIHR CRN CC website at www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/index/clinical/csp.html.

Department of Health Lead:

C Marc Taylor
Head of R & D Systems and Governance
marc.taylor@dh.qsi.gov.uk