



BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 6.6

RESEARCH UNITS

*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 of the key components of that strategy: RESEARCH UNITS. This document will be regularly updated. The latest version should be used.

Version: 9

Issue date: January 2010

Planned revision & re-issue date: July 2010

The NIHR funds a full range of research programmes and infrastructure for supporting first class clinical and applied health research and training. NIHR Research Units are one means by which this support is channelled.

Aims

- Support research that will inform practice in health and social care.
- Support research capacity and activity in areas strategically important to the NHS.

Purpose

- We will fund NIHR Research Units as appropriate in order to support our different needs including:
 - provision of research-based expert advice;
 - sustaining research capacity in priority areas;
 - supporting the development and management of patient-focused research in the NHS;
- All units will have agreed work plans and milestones and will continue to be performance managed and reviewed regularly.

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

Academic Units

- NIHR supports a number of Academic Units that provide high-level academic support to health and social care research, a resource of expert advice on a variety of academic subjects relevant to health and social research, and that sustain research capacity in priority areas.
- The way in which support is provided to Academic Units is currently under review.

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