



## National Institute for Health Research

# PATIENT SAFETY TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRES

### Introduction

The vision of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

This document sets out how the NIHR Patient Safety Translational Research Centres are contributing to this vision. Information about other elements of the NIHR clinical research infrastructure can be found in companion documents.

### Overview

The NIHR established the first round of two NIHR Patient Safety and Service Quality Research Centres (PSSQs) in 2007. Designation and funding for these PSSQs ended July 2012.

Following a new, open competition, NIHR designated and funded two NIHR Patient Safety Translational Research Centres (PSTRCs), for five years from 1 August 2012, within leading NHS and University partnerships with the highest levels of both existing internationally excellent research in patient safety and existing critical mass.

As centres of international expertise, the PSTRCs bring together NHS professionals with a wide range of research disciplines. Their roles include taking new theoretical models or paradigms (the development of which is not funded via this scheme) and applying these to the context of service delivery within the NHS in order to demonstrate proof of concept or principle. The source of new models or paradigms may include, for example, new concepts from behavioural science, decision analysis, engineering, or management science.

### Aims

- **Drive forward improvements** in the domain of patient safety and safety of NHS services.
- **Pull advances** in basic research, which *could be* of relevance to patient safety, into applied research, which *is* of relevance to patient safety.
- Provide a key component of the NHS contribution to our nation's international competitiveness by **making the best centres even better**.

As national centres of excellence, PSTRCs undertake research that is generalisable and has wide applicability across the whole NHS.

### **Selection and Funding**

The PSTRCs were selected by open competition in 2011. Applications were assessed by an independent selection panel with international membership using the following criteria:

- **Quality and volume** of internationally excellent translational research, which is relevant to patient safety.
- **Existing research capacity**, and plans for increasing capacity including training.
- **Track-record** of the NHS/University partnership in conducting world class translational research in patient safety and translating this research into benefits for patients in the relevant research areas.
- **Strength of the strategic plan.**
- **Relevance of the research portfolio** to the health of patients and the public.
- **Strength of strategic partnerships** including those with industry, other NIHR-funded research Infrastructure, and sectors outside the NHS and mainstream academia.
- **Value for money.**

Funding commenced in August 2012. The amount of funding allocated to each Centre was determined by the scale and nature of the research activity to be conducted by that centre. Funding has been awarded to the NHS partner and can only be used to support the recurrent costs of patient-focused research. Eligible costs include:

- Research staff engaged in patient safety translational research in the NHS.
- Research support staff supporting patient safety translational research in the NHS.
- Communications, linkage and partnership costs involved in the development and translation of innovative patient safety research in NHS practice.
- Research training, leading to a higher degree by research, e.g. MPhil, MD, PhD, for staff, of all disciplines, engaged in patient safety translational research in the NHS.
- NHS service support costs of patient safety research in the NHS.
- Other, legitimate and reasonable, indirect costs within the NHS, e.g. accommodation, payroll, HR, finance.

The performance of each centre is monitored and reviewed by annual reports and site visits by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility. Centres, which are not performing at the required standard, will first be put on notice, and if the required standard is not achieved within a defined time-scale, funding will be withdrawn.

## NIHR Patient Safety Translational Research Centres - Research Themes

The flagship centres are partnerships between NHS organisations and academia. In total, £13.5 million has been awarded for two PSTRCs, over five years from August 2012.

<b>NHS Organisation</b>	<b>University Partner</b>	<b>Research Themes</b>
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	Imperial College London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective use of Information</li><li>• Design and Technology</li><li>• Patients, carers and families</li><li>• Teamwork, Skills and Safety</li><li>• Safe Systems</li><li>• Economics, Evaluation and Policy</li></ul>
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	University of Manchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medication Safety</li><li>• Safety improvement in general practice</li><li>• Interface and Information</li><li>• Multimorbidity and Patient Safety</li></ul>

### New Patient Safety Translational Research Centres

On 13 February 2017 funding and designation for three NIHR PSTRCs was announced; including a new NIHR PSTRC based at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Leeds. A total of £17m will be invested in these three centres over the five-year period from August 2017.

### Further information

Further details about PSTRCs are available on the NIHR Website

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/how-we-are-managed/our-structure/infrastructure/patient-safety-translational-research-centres.htm>

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