



*National Institute for  
Health Research*

# NIHR CRN Quarterly Performance Report

## Quarter 2 2016/17

Public Version: Version 1 16 November 2016

This document sets out the metrics and commentary in respect of the NIHR Clinical Research Network's (NIHR CRN) High Level Objectives (HLOs) for Quarter 2 2016/17 (1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016), and a refreshed data set for Quarter 1 (1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016).

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

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.

### **Further information**

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## High Level Objectives Performance Summary Report Q2 2016/17

This document sets out the metrics and commentary in respect of the NIHR Clinical Research Network's (NIHR CRN) performance against its High Level Objectives (HLOs) for Quarter 2 2016/17 (1 July to 30 September 2016). Performance is summarised in Table 1.

The HLOs are the Network's national, overarching annual objectives for research delivery in the NHS; these are defined in Table 2 and are reported on an annual basis to DH and a summary is made publicly available via the NIHR website. 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.

### Red/Amber/Green (RAG) ratings

The RAG thresholds used throughout the document are:

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

For the purposes of performance reporting decimal places are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

**Table 1: High Level Objectives Performance Summary Data (1 July – 30 September 2016)**

High Level Objectives Performance Quarter 2 2016/17									Previous Trends		
HLO	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	Quarter 2 % Year to Date Difference from Year to Date Target	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16 % Difference from Annual Target
1	650,000	162,500	118,202	148,804	156,909	-3%	305,713	-6%	618,453	605,596	-7%
2a	80%	80%	65%	65%	75%	-6%	70%	-12%	63%	65%	-19%
2b	80%	80%	75%	74%	73%	-9%	73%	-9%	76%	76%	-5%
3a	650	163	180	192	123	-24%	315	-3%	623	650	8%
3b	75%	75%	81%	83%	70%	-7%	77%	+3%	82%	85%	13%
4 [2], [3]	80%	80%	83%	91%	73%	-9%	78%	-2%	New metric for 2016/17		
5a [2], [4]	80%	80%	0	0%	43%	-46%	38%	-52%			
5b [2], [5]	80%	80%	50%	67%	69%	-14%	69%	-14%	98%	100%	1%
6a	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	-1%	98%	-1%	78%	74%	6%
6b	70%	70%	66%	70%	76%	+9%	76%	+9%	41%	42%	68%
6c	25%	25%	28%	33%	39%	+56%	39%	+56%	21,449	34,812	158%
7	20,000	5,000	5,863	7,287	5,497	+10%	12,784	+28%			

[1] 2016/17 performance data is refreshed on a quarterly basis, therefore data will change on a quarterly basis until the annual data cut. This refresh allows the CRN to have a more accurate predictor of year to date performance.

[2] Objectives 4, 5a and 5b have been revised for 2016/17 in light of the introduction of HRA Approval, replacing NIHR CSP. Previous performance from 2014/15 and 2015/16 is not comparable and is therefore not included.

[3] For information the 2016/17 measure for HLO 4 is the proportion of eligible studies achieving NHS set up at all sites within 40 calendar days (from "Date Site Selected" to "Date Site Confirmed")

[4] For information the 2016/17 measure for HLO 5A is the proportion of commercial contract studies achieving first participant recruited within 30 days at confirmed Network sites (from "Date Site Confirmed" to "Date First Participant Recruited")

[5] For information the 2016/17 measure for HLO 5B is the proportion of non-commercial contract studies achieving first participant recruited within 30 days at confirmed Network sites (from "Date Site Confirmed" to "Date First Participant Recruited")

## Performance summary for Q2 2016/17

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 Quarter 2 performance (year to date) as a definitive indicator of annual performance. The NIHR CRN is taking ongoing action in specific areas to address under-performance and continues to work towards meeting the national HLO targets.

The HLO data will be refreshed within quarterly performance reports, to determine a more accurate picture of projected annual performance.

**HLO 1** 156,909 participants were recruited into clinical research studies in Q2 2016/17. We are working towards our recruitment target of 650,000 participants, however recruitment is lower than our quarterly average target of 162,550. At mid-point in the year, the data suggests that the NIHR CRN will match or exceed the recruitment achieved in 2015/16, however there are a number of factors which indicate some of the challenges associated with meeting the annual target:

- The profile of studies on the NIHR CRN Portfolio is evolving. There was a significant decrease in large observational studies entering the Portfolio in 2015/16 (726 compared to 858 in 2014/15). In parallel there has been an increase in complex, interventional studies (1,051 in 2015/16 compared to 1,001 in 2014/15). This is beginning to impact upon HLO 1, despite improvements in HLO 2 (recruitment to time and target).
- A progressive decrease in median UK study sample size (90 in 2015/16 compared to 160 in 2008/09)

**HLO 2A** The proportion of commercial contract studies achieving recruitment to time and target was 75% in Q2 2016/17. This is a significant increase in performance from Q1 2016/17 and we are on track to improve our annual performance. Improving delivery to time and target continues to be the priority for the NIHR CRN in 2016/17 and we anticipate further improvement in performance to be apparent by the end of 2016/17 through improvement activities.

**HLO 2B** The proportion of non-commercial studies achieving recruitment to time and target was 73% in Q2 2016/17. Improving delivery to time and target continues to be the priority for the NIHR CRN in 2016/17. We anticipate HLO performance improvement to be apparent by the end of 2016/17 through improvement activities.

**HLO 3A** 123 new commercial contract studies were added to the NIHR CRN Portfolio in Q2 2016/17. This is less than the quarterly target of 163 new commercial contract studies, however we remain on track to achieve the annual target of 650 new studies.

**HLO 3B** The number of new commercial contract studies entering the NIHR CRN Portfolio as a percentage of the total commercial MHRA CTA approvals for Phase II-IV studies was 70% in Q1 2016/17. Quarterly variation is not unexpected and we remain on track to achieve our annual target of 75%.

**HLO 4** 73% of eligible studies achieved NHS set up at all sites within 40 calendar days, with a median set-up time of 20 days. This is a new measure for 2016/17, with new start and end points as a result of HRA Approval<sup>1</sup> implementation, which reflects the NIHR CRN's role in

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

supporting all study sites to gain confirmation of NHS capacity and capability in a timely manner. Whilst the percentage of studies meeting the metric has decreased slightly from Q1, it should be noted that the number of studies with data available to contribute to this metric is still small (n=63) and performance for the year to date is within 2% of target. Given that this is a new process from April 2016, the slight decrease in performance against the target at this time is anticipated.

**HLO 5A** 43% of commercial contract studies achieved a median of first participant recruited within 30 calendar days at confirmed Network sites in Q2 2016/17. This is a new calculation for 2016/17 as a study wide median and the HLO follows on from HLO 4 to align with the NIHR Performance in Initiating and Delivering Research (PID)<sup>2</sup> 70 day benchmark. As with HLO 4, it should be noted that the number of studies with data available to contribute to this metric is still small (n=7) and is therefore not a robust indicator of potential annual performance.

**HLO 5B** 69% of non-commercial studies achieved first participant recruited within 30 calendar days at confirmed Network sites in Q2 2016/17. This is a new calculation for 2016/17 as a study wide median and the HLO follows on from HLO 4 to align with the NIHR PID 70 day benchmark. As with HLO 4, it should be noted that the number of studies with data available to contribute to this metric is still small (n=13) and is therefore not a robust indicator of potential annual performance.

**HLO 6A** 98% of NHS Trusts recruited into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies by the end of Q2 2016/17. This is a cumulative annual measure therefore we are on track to meet the 99% annual target.

**HLO 6B** 76% of NHS Trusts recruited to commercial contract studies by the end of Q2 2016/17. This is a cumulative annual measure and we have exceeded the 70% annual target.

**HLO 6C** 39% of General Medical Practices recruited one or more participants into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies by the end of Q2 2016/17. This is a cumulative annual measure, where any GP practice that has actively recruited to NIHR CRN Portfolio studies within 2016/17 is included in this metric. The 25% annual target was exceeded in Q1 2016/17.

**HLO 7** 5,497 participants were recruited into Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) Specialty studies within Q2 2016/17. This surpasses the quarterly target of 5,000 participants. We remain on track to meet the 20,000 annual target.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-and-impact/nhs-research-performance/performance-in-initiating-and-delivering-research/>

**Table 2 – NIHR CRN High Level Objectives**

Objective		Measure	2016/17 Target
1	Increase the number of participants recruited into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies	Number of participants recruited in a reporting year into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies	650,000
2	Increase the proportion of studies in the NIHR CRN Portfolio delivering to recruitment target and time	A: Proportion of commercial contract studies achieving or surpassing their recruitment target during their planned recruitment period, at confirmed Network sites	80%
		B: Proportion of non-commercial studies achieving or surpassing their recruitment target during their planned recruitment period	80%
3	Increase the number of commercial contract studies delivered through the NIHR CRN	A: Number of new commercial contract studies entering the NIHR CRN Portfolio	650
		B: Number of new commercial contract studies entering the NIHR CRN Portfolio as a percentage of the total commercial MHRA CTA approvals for Phase II–IV studies	75%
4	Reduce the time taken for eligible studies to achieve set up in the NHS	Proportion of eligible studies achieving NHS set up at all sites within 40 calendar days (from “Date Site Selected” to “Date Site Confirmed”)	80%
5	Reduce the time taken to recruit first participant into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies	A: Proportion of commercial contract studies achieving first participant recruited within 30 days at confirmed Network sites (from “Date Site Confirmed” to “Date First Participant Recruited”)	80%
		B: Proportion of non-commercial contract studies achieving first participant recruited within 30 days at confirmed Network sites (from “Date Site Confirmed” to “Date First Participant Recruited”)	80%

Objective		Measure	2016/17 Target
6	Increase NHS participation in NIHR CRN Portfolio Studies	A: Proportion of NHS Trusts recruiting each year into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies	99%
		B: Proportion of NHS Trusts recruiting each year into NIHR CRN Portfolio commercial contract studies	70%
		C: Proportion of General Medical Practices recruiting each year into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies	35%
7	Increase the number of participants recruited into Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) studies on the NIHR CRN Portfolio	Number of participants recruited into Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) studies on the NIHR CRN Portfolio	20,000

NB. Measures for HLO 4, 5A and 5B have been revised in light of the introduction of HRA Approval, replacing NIHR CSP<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Coordinated System for gaining NHS Permission