

NIHR CRN High Level Objectives Quarterly Performance Report

Quarter 3 2015/16

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Delivering research to make patients,
and the NHS, better

Preface

Scope of the NIHR CRN HLOs Quarterly Performance Summary Report

This document sets out the NIHR Clinical Research Network's (NIHR CRN) performance against its High Level Objectives (HLOs) for Quarter 3 2015/16 (1st October to 31st December 2015), and a refreshed data set for Quarter 2 (1st July to 30th September 2015) and Quarter 1 (1st April to 30th June 2015). Performance is summarised in Table 1.

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

The HLOs are the Network's national, overarching annual objectives for research delivery in the NHS; these are defined in Table 2. 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.

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.

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.

Further information

For feedback on, or queries relating to, the information contained in this document, please contact:

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Table 1: High Level Objectives Performance Summary Data (1 April – 31 December 2015)

High Level Objectives Performance Quarter 3 2015/16									Previous Trends		
HLO	Annual Target	Quarterly Target	Quarter 1 Performance Refreshed in Quarter 3 [1]	Quarter 2 Performance Refreshed in Quarter 3 [1]	Quarter 3 Performance	Quarter 3 Difference from Quarterly Target	Quarter 3 Year To Date	Quarter 3 Year to Date Difference from Year to Date Target	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15 Difference from Target
1	650,000	162,500	152,296	163,892	137,114	-15.6%	453,302	-7.0%	604,216	618,453	-5%
2a	80%	80%	64%	64%	70%	-10.0%	66%	-14.0%	73%	63%	-17%
2b	80%	80%	78%	77%	69%	-11.0%	75%	-5.0%	78%	76%	-4%
3a	600	150	177	160	201	34.0%	538	19.6%	533	623	4%
3b	75%	75%	85%	56%	141%	66.0%	88%	13.0%	82%	82%	7%
4	80%	80%	80%	79%	75%	-5.0%	78%	-2.0%	77%	83%	3%
5a	80%	80%	44%	69%	56%	-24.0%	58%	-22.0%	58%	63%	-17%
5b	80%	80%	47%	45%	44%	-36.0%	46%	-34.0%	44%	50%	-30%
6a	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	0.0%	99%	0.0%	100%	98%	-1%
6b	70%	70%	66%	69%	70%	0.0%	70%	0.0%	86%	78%	8%
6c	25%	25%	16%	28%	35%	10.0%	35%	10.0%		41%	16%
7	13,500	3,375	7,086	7,299	5,408	60.2%	19,793	95.5%	13,583	21,449	59%

^[1] 2015/16 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.

Performance analysis for Q3 2015/16

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

The NIHR CRN is also providing refreshed data for previous Quarters in 2015/16, to determine a more accurate picture of annual performance throughout the year.

HLO 1 137,114 participants were recruited into clinical research studies in Q3 2015/16, which is lower than our quarterly average in 2014/15. This decrease in Q3 is however an annual trend; recruitment is generally lower in December than any other month. At this point in the year we are on track to meet or exceed last year's participant recruitment of 618,453. The quarterly refreshed data indicates that the number of participants recruited for Q1 and Q2 also increased. We continue to work towards our recruitment target of 650,000 participants; however the profile of studies on the NIHR CRN Portfolio is evolving, with increased numbers of complex, interventional studies. Evidence shows that in 2014/15 the median study sample size fell to 100 compared to 160 in 2008/09, whereas the number of non-commercial studies has remained constant. This highlights some of the challenges associated with meeting the recruitment target of 650,000 participants.

HLO 2A The proportion of commercial contract studies achieving recruitment to time and target was 70% in Q3 2015/16, with a year to date aggregate of 66%. Performance has increased gradually each quarter in 2015/16, as the CRNCC works through and assures data quality in all closed studies. This explains the improving position for previous quarters, when the data is refreshed. Improving delivery to time and target continues to be the priority for the NIHR CRN in 2015/16.

HLO 2B The proportion of non-commercial studies achieving recruitment to time and target was 69% in Q3 2015/16, with a year to date aggregate of 75%. The CRNCC has focused on improving the data quality for all studies closing in 2015/16 and this is reflected in the refreshed data sets. Improving delivery to time and target continues to be the priority for the NIHR CRN in 2015/16.

HLO 3A 201 new commercial contract studies were added to the NIHR CRN Portfolio in Q3 2015/16. The annual target is 600 new studies and we are on track to achieve this (538 year to date).

HLO 3B 141% of commercial contract studies were supported by the NIHR CRN in Q3 2015/16, compared to the total number of commercial MHRA CTA approvals for Phase II–IV studies. This quarter has seen a significant decrease in the number of MHRA CTA applications and we are working with MHRA to understand the reasons behind this. Variance in the number of CTA approvals coupled with the timing of actual entry onto the NIHR CRN Portfolio can affect the percentage quarter on quarter. We are on track to achieve our annual target of 75% (88% year to date).

HLO 4 75% of eligible studies obtained all NHS permissions through CSP within 40 calendar days (from receipt of a valid complete application by NIHR CRN) at all study sites in Q3

2015/16. This remains at 78% year to date, although there has been a slight drop in performance each quarter throughout 2015/16. The transition of the Research Management & Governance community to HRA Approval¹ and the decommissioning of the NIHR Coordinated System for gaining NHS Permission (CSP) is contributing to the ability of LCRNs to meet CSP targets. To date, contrary to expectations, there has been no decrease in the number of studies applying for CSP, despite the introduction of HRA Approval for Cohorts 1-3.

HLO 5A 56% of commercial contract studies achieved first participant recruited within 30 calendar days in Q3 2015/16, with a year to date performance of 58%. While performance is currently down from 2014/15 the importance of delivering against the NIHR PID targets² will continue to focus sites on rapid first participant recruitment. This HLO will be aligned with PID reporting in 2016/17.

HLO 5B 44% of non-commercial studies achieved first participant recruited within 30 calendar days in Q3 2015/16, with a year to date performance of 46%. While performance is currently down from 2014/15 the importance of delivering against the NIHR PID targets² will continue to focus sites on rapid first participant recruitment. This HLO will be aligned with PID reporting in 2016/17.

HLO 6A 99% of NHS Trusts recruited into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies by the end of Q3 2015/16. This is a cumulative annual measure therefore we are on track to meet the 99% annual target.

HLO 6B 70% of NHS Trusts recruited to commercial contract studies by the end of Q3 2015/16. This is a cumulative annual measure therefore we are on track to meet the 70% annual target.

HLO 6C 35% of General Medical Practices recruited one or more participants into NIHR CRN Portfolio studies by the end of Q3 2015/16. This is a cumulative annual measure where any GP practice that has actively recruited to NIHR CRN Portfolio studies within 2015/16, is included in this metric, therefore we are on track to exceed the 25% annual target.

HLO 7 5,408 participants were recruited into Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) Specialty studies within Q3 2015/16. This surpasses the quarterly target of 3,375 participants, with increasing numbers of people recruited through Join Dementia Research. We are on track to significantly exceed the target 13,500 annual target (19,793 year to date).

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

² This is the Department of Health performance measure that any NHS organisation that holds an NIHR contract has to deliver against

Table 2: Summary of NIHR CRN High Level Objectives 2015/16

Objective		Measure	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	600
		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 NHS Permission through CSP	Proportion of eligible studies obtaining all NHS Permissions within 40 calendar days (from receipt of a valid complete application by NIHR CRN)	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 calendar days of NHS Permission being issued or First Network Site Initiation Visit, at confirmed Network sites	80%
		B: Proportion of non-commercial studies achieving first participant recruited within 30 calendar days of NHS Permission being issued	80%

Objective		Measure	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	25%
7	Increase the number of participants recruited into Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) studies on the NIHR CRN portfolio	Number of participants recruited into DeNDRoN studies on the NIHR CRN portfolio	13,500