How clinical research delivered in the NHS benefits the UK economy

An independent report, commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network and produced by KPMG’s Economics team, provides an assessment of the economic impact of the NIHR Clinical Research Network’s activities to support clinical research in England over the period from 2016/17 - 2018/19. The report includes: an assessment of the economic contribution made to the UK economy through clinical research activity supported by the Network; analysis to quantify the value of payments made to NHS Trusts for commercial studies; and the value to the NHS of pharmaceuticals provided as part of commercial studies. The key findings are presented below.

CRN supported clinical research activity which generated:

- £2.7 billion GVA\(^1\)
- and 47,467 FTE\(^2\) jobs

For each patient recruited onto a commercial clinical trial, on average, the NHS in England:

- received £9,189 from life sciences companies
- saved £5,813

This is the estimated pharmaceutical cost-saving for each patient recruited into a commercial study, where a trial drug replaced the standard of care treatment.

The number of studies and patients recruited onto studies on the CRN portfolio have both increased by approximately 30% in 3 years (2016/17 to 2018/19).

85% of commercial studies it approves are supported by the CRN (2018/19)

The MHRA estimates that:

...without the CRN’s provision of feasibility services, procurement of ‘high performing’ sites would be significantly more sporadic and difficult. [Based on Sponsor Company feedback (page 49)]

...the CRN’s site identification services and set-up support to smaller organisations had impacted positively on its decision to operate clinical research in the UK... [Based on Contract Research Organisation feedback (page 49)]

Please see the full report for details of the analysis and its limitations and assumptions. www.nihr.ac.uk/impact-and-value-2019

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