

Our offer of support

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is the research delivery arm of the UK's National Health Service (NHS). We provide life science companies with unparalleled access to, and understanding of, the NHS research environment.

Our **Study Support Service is free of charge** and helps the life sciences industry, whether a sponsor company or designated Contract Research Organisation (CRO), plan, set-up and deliver high quality research to time and target within the NHS in England.

We offer a flexible package of support across the clinical study life-cycle that can be shaped to meet the needs of individual companies. You can choose services that add to work you've already begun, or to support the development of your study from the outset. The earlier you get in touch, the more scope you have to make the most of our support. Our Business Development team will work with you to optimise the experience.

Our offer includes a range of practical services to support study feasibility, set-up, costings and contracts negotiations and performance monitoring to enable recruitment to agreed time and target.

By connecting individual research sites, our national network structure enables a 'do once and share' approach to study delivery, which means you benefit from country-wide expertise and experience.

Companies can utilise this service regardless of location, study type, study size, or therapy area. We support commercial contract studies across the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, diagnostics and medical technology industries, as well as those delivered via CROs. So whether you are a pharmaceutical giant, a medium-sized medical technology firm, or a small CRO, we can help.

Further information

This free offer of support is provided by the NIHR Clinical Research Network. Further information is available on the NIHR website:
www.nihr.ac.uk/life-sciences-industry



Contact us

We have a dedicated Study Support Service Helpdesk to answer your questions:
Phone: 00 44 (0) 113 343 4555
Email: supportmystudy@nihr.ac.uk



National Institute for Health Research

Our offer to the life sciences industry

Free support to develop, set-up and deliver high quality commercial clinical research in the National Health Service (NHS)

The NHS deals with over 1 million patients every 36 hours

The NIHR spends more than £500 million per year on clinical research infrastructure

In 2015/16 we helped facilitate 1113 commercial contract research studies

In 2015/16 we recruited 605,000 people into clinical research studies

Nearly 35,000 of those people were recruited into commercial contract studies

In 2015/16 we achieved 16 first global patients and 13 first European patients

"This was our first UK trial and working with the NIHR CRN enabled us to hit the ground running in the UK. From quick adoption of the trial into its research portfolio and identifying interested investigators and sites within NHS, to ongoing monitoring of enrolment against performance objectives. We felt like we had a partner who was genuinely interested in a successful outcome."

Novian Health Inc, US-based medical device manufacturer

Delivering research to make patients, and the NHS, better

Providing free, consistent study support throughout the study life cycle, across England

6. Performance monitoring

Once your study is open to recruitment, we work with you to ensure it is making steady progress. Our dedicated Industry Operations Managers in each of our 15 regions are embedded at site level to support study management and delivery. Our data systems collate site level information to provide study-wide oversight, which enables proactive performance monitoring. Our Red-Amber-Green (RAG) reporting system enables a nationwide understanding of recruitment status and helps us to pin-point areas where additional clinical trial support may be needed.

5. Effective study set-up

We create a study-wide action plan which serves as a central resource to help all sites set-up effectively. It helps to maximise study delivery, enables sites to develop proactive solutions and encourages collaborative working.

The study-wide action plan also works alongside our good practice principles for local site assessment, arrangement and confirmation of capacity and capability to provide consistency in set-up across all sites. Our national approach ensures your study is set up as quickly and efficiently as possible.

4. Optimising delivery (site level feasibility)

If you have not benefitted from our early contact and engagement service we undertake an assessment to inform and enable the type of support you'll need.

Our site intelligence service utilises local site and study data and expertise on previous recruitment performance to sense check local recruitment targets, identify competing studies and identify any potential resource issues. This intelligence is designed to supplement your own feasibility, site qualification and selection activities, giving you greater confidence in setting site targets and set-up timelines. This improves the predictability of site set-up and recruitment.

1. Early contact and engagement

Get a head start in delivering your clinical trial. We offer personalised one-to-one advice about all the different areas of support available to you.

By working with us early on, you can access our full range of support and create a bespoke service that meets your needs and provides benefits throughout the full life-cycle of your study.

Our support at this stage may involve advice on regulatory submissions, completion of costing templates, standardised Clinical Trial Agreements, exploration of recruitment pathways, access to Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training and local intelligence to optimise delivery of your study.

2. Early feedback (national feasibility)

One single online submission provides you with access to rapid feedback from communities of NHS clinical experts and key opinion leaders across all therapeutic specialties. This helps you determine if your study is compatible with UK practice and can be delivered in the NHS. It increases your chances of delivering your study on time and meeting your recruitment target.

Our nation-wide network structure enables us to deliver comprehensive and efficient early feedback within 10 working days. Clinical experts embedded in the NHS look at study complexity, patient population, competing studies, timelines and recruitment strategy and offer valuable feedback that can improve study delivery and success.

Our national database collates and provides data from all commercial and non-commercial studies that have registered for our support. This intelligence gives a unique and invaluable insight into the capacity and capability of the Network.

3. Site identification and selection

Our site identification service enables you to rapidly receive expressions of interest from investigators from over 240 NHS organisations and 10,000+ General Practices in England. All you need to do is complete a simple online submission form with basic details of the study. After receiving expressions of interest, you can engage directly with interested investigators and teams for more in-depth site selection discussions.

Our national approach to site identification is a globally unique mechanism through which all NHS organisations and General Practices can be notified of the latest commercial contract research opportunities and express an interest in participating. It gives you an up-to-date insight into the most suitable sites to deliver your study, while minimising the resource you need to rapidly identify interested sites for detailed feasibility discussions.

