

Our Service

The Clinical Research Network East Midlands and the UHL Research and Innovation Office work collaboratively to deliver the Study Support Service, supporting researchers and the life sciences industry to develop, set up and deliver high quality research to time and target.

We offer a range of services across the research study lifecycle, including feasibility, study and site set up and performance management advice.

Until a study is deemed ineligible for the NIHR CRN portfolio, we will provide consistent and high quality support for our researchers, regardless of the location, study type/size, methodology, research setting or therapy area.

We can support with early contact and engagement, regulatory approvals, assistance with site identification and guidance with the costings for a study. This infrastructure provides unparalleled access to, and understanding of, the research environment.

Please talk to us as early as possible to get the most out of the advice and guidance we offer.



Contact Us

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General enquiries:

UHL Research & Innovation Office
RIAdmin@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Please forward all enquiries for **non-commercial** studies to:
supportmystudyeastmidlands@nihr.ac.uk

The Clinical Research Network East Midlands Industry Team is your main point of contact for **commercial studies** (sponsored and funded by industry). Please forward all enquiries to:
industry.crneastmidlands@nihr.ac.uk

Clinical Research Network
East Midlands


National Institute for
Health Research

Study Support Service

Supporting researchers with the development, set-up and delivery of high quality research at Leicester's Hospitals




University Hospitals
of Leicester
NHS Trust

The Study Support Service

Research ideas

Study development and planning

Study development and planning

Study recruitment / follow up

Study closure



The Early Contact Service

Delivered collaboratively by UHL R&I and CRN EM

When researchers are developing research ideas and applying for funding, we recommend engaging with the Early Contact Service within the Study Support Service.

The Clinical Research Network East Midlands (CRN EM) Early Contact Lead works in collaboration with the UHL R&I Office and closely with the Research Design Service (RDS), Clinical Trials Units, CLAHRC and our Academic Partners in order to support researchers during this early stage.

The Early Contact Service provides advice and guidance on the research study journey, including pre-application support, attribution of costs and costing templates, study set-up, feasibility, regulatory approvals, recruitment pathways, training requirements and local intelligence.



Early Feedback

Delivered by CRN EM

Continuing to work closely with our partners and stakeholders, we can provide early national advice on the deliverability of multi-site studies. We look at the study complexity, patient population, timelines and recruitment strategy, offering suggestions and adjustments that improve study delivery.



Site Identification

Delivered by CRN EM

We support the Chief Investigator and Sponsor by offering the Site Identification Service. We will coordinate the distribution of study information to enable identification of potential sites.

Using our expertise, we will work with these potential sites to discuss resource requirements, facilities and costs involved in participating in a study. This will allow for in-depth capacity and capability discussions with the study Sponsor and result in well prepared sites to deliver your study to time and target.



National Study Delivery Assessment

Delivered by CRN EM

The network will review and assess studies to identify any potential challenges which may affect study delivery, and look to suggest approaches to mitigate these. This review will be shared nationally, and used by both the Chief Investigator and other local Clinical Research Networks to aid the study roll-out and monitoring.



Effective Study Start Up Plan

Delivered collaboratively by UHL R&I and CRN EM

Using all of the information gathered up until this stage, the CRN EM will develop a study start up plan in collaboration with the UHL Research Support Officer. The study start up plan serves as a central resource to help all sites set-up effectively and will be shared with the Chief Investigator, Sponsor, Research and Innovation teams and all participating local Clinical Research Networks.

This also supports the UHL R&I Authorisation process for assessing, arranging and confirming capacity and capability, as many aspects will have already been addressed.



Performance Review

Delivered collaboratively by UHL R&I and CRN EM

A member of UHL R&I and the local Clinical Research Network will work with the Chief Investigator and local research teams to develop a study milestone plan at site and study level. We will help you monitor study performance using well established methods to ensure your study is delivered to time and target.