

UKCPA as a NIHR non-commercial partner

We are delighted and proud to announce that UKCPA has been approved as a NIHR non-commercial partner. This is great news for anyone who will apply for UKCPA project grants in the future.

The NIHR is the NHS National Institute for Health Research (www.nihr.ac.uk). They commission and fund NHS, social care and public health research that is essential for delivering responsibilities in public, health and personal social services. Their role is to develop the research evidence to support decision making by professionals, policy makers and patients, make this evidence available, and encourage its uptake and use.

As a NIHR Partner, project teams who are funded by UKCPA are eligible to use NIHR Clinical Research Network support systems and resources.

This includes the ability to use the **NIHR Coordinated System (aka NIHR CSP) for gaining NHS Permissions**. Anyone who has conducted research within the NHS will know of the paperwork involved in applying for ethics and R&D approval (aka NHS Permission). This coordinated system, accessed via **the Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)**, is a single system for applying for all the permissions and approvals you need to conduct your research study in the UK. It also performs checks to ensure that you have the right approvals required.

Studies funded by UKCPA will also be considered for inclusion in the NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio – a database of high quality clinical research studies. The Portfolio Database captures activity data and provides analysis tools to facilitate active management of current studies run within the Clinical Research Network.

Inclusion in the Portfolio also comes with additional benefits.

- Access to experienced Research Management and Governance staff that can advise on governance aspects of undertaking clinical research in the NHS and facilitate the rapid approval of your study through the NIHR Coordinated System for gaining NHS Permission (NIHR CSP).
- Access to a local network of dedicated skilled research support staff including research nurses and other allied health professionals, who can help identify eligible patients, arrange consent to participate in the study and monitor patients as they progress through the study
- Support to ensure that your study can be successfully undertaken in the NHS including pharmacy, imaging and pathology services and the possibility of securing protected time for NHS staff to conduct research
- Access to additional support via the NIHR Clinical Research Network, such as:
 - local and national networking opportunities to promote interaction with fellow researchers in your specialty. This provides you with access to new recruitment sites and patient populations for your multicentre study and opportunities to contribute to national and international studies being led by other researchers

- access to free training opportunities to ensure that you, and your team, have the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to high quality clinical research in the NHS.

To be eligible for NIHR CRN support, any research study that UKCPA funds must also meet the standard study eligibility criteria, that the study:

- Requires NHS Research Ethics Committee approval and NHS permission
- Is a discrete structured research project with an appropriate study protocol
- Is of clear value to the NHS
- Involves NHS patients, staff, premises, facilities or resources

Further information can be found here:

NIHR CRN Portfolio: http://www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk/about_us/processes/portfolio

NIHR CSP: http://www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk/about_us/processes/csp

IRAS: www.myresearchproject.org.uk

NIHR RDFunding: <http://rdfunding.org.uk/default.asp> - an online database that advertises thousands of health-related funding opportunities for researchers in the UK.