

# Networking locally to deliver globally

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network is the research delivery arm of the UK's NHS – supporting rapid study set-up and patient recruitment into all phases of clinical research studies. Funded by the Department of Health England, it invests £300m annually into a research infrastructure comprising over 10,000 specially-trained clinical research

professionals who work throughout the NHS and across all disease areas.

In recent years the Network has placed a particular focus on supporting the life sciences industry. This has resulted in year-on-year improvements in patient recruitment into commercial studies. In the financial year 2014/15 it recruited 34,800 patients into commercial clinical trials – a 34% increase on the previous year – and brought 623 new commercial clinical trials to the UK.

At the core of this success is the Network's Study Support Service, which assists with study feasibility, set-up, costings and contracts, and performance management to enable patient recruitment to agreed time and target. The service is underpinned by unrivalled access to the latest NHS research intelligence and expertise from National Specialty Groups – affiliated communities

of leading research-interested clinicians. Both resources play a vital role in ensuring accurate feasibility assessments which are based on current UK practice, prevalence of patient populations and knowledge of the UK research landscape.

This free-of-charge service is designed for all life sciences companies sponsoring clinical research within the UK, including investigational medical products, medical devices and observational studies.



**National Institute for  
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