

UHNM Research and Innovation Update:

Five Things Friday

Welcome to our 'Five Things Friday' update!

On the last Friday of every month, we'll share a quick snapshot of what's happening in Research & Innovation (R&I) at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM). These updates are designed to help you better understand the wide range of support our R&I department offers.



1. Home-Grown Research and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

Our experienced team can support you in developing high-quality proposals and securing local, national, or international funding.

We'll support you through every stage of your study, from design to delivery and ensure patients and the public are meaningfully involved through our dedicated PPIE team. We also offer tailored communication support to help your research find the right audiences.

UHNM leads national study to understand and improve flu vaccination rates in children

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) led a national research study examining the decline in flu vaccination rates among school-aged children since the covid-19 pandemic.

The VIBES study (Vaccines Insight, Beliefs and Experiences in School-aged children and parents), funded through the AstraZeneca Externally Sponsored Research platform and adopted by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), involved more than 1,000 parents across the UK.

The study, supported by UHNM's Research and Innovation (R&I) department, was the first nationally to use the new NIHR Schools Network, enabling researchers at UHNM to engage with families from a wide range of ethnic, social and economic backgrounds.

The findings will support the development of future public health communication aimed at improving uptake.



2. Research Delivery

Our hands-on research delivery team works directly in clinics and services across UHNM to support study recruitment, ensuring our patients have access to world-leading research opportunities.

UHNM named top UK recruiter for national kidney trial in November

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust's (UHNM) Research and Innovation (R&I) department has received national praise after achieving the highest patient recruitment in the UK for a major clinical trial in November.

The R&I department successfully recruited five patients in just five working days, significantly exceeding the expected target of one to two patients per week for the KID (Kidney Injury Using Carbon Dioxide) trial.

The KID Trial, sponsored by the University of Leicester and funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), is a national study exploring whether carbon dioxide contrast can reduce the risk of kidney damage in patients undergoing endovascular revascularisation, a minimally invasive procedure to restore blood flow to blocked or narrowed arteries.



3. The North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC)

UHNM is home to a dedicated Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC), working with industry partners to deliver high-quality commercial studies.

This centre strengthens our reputation as a research-active Trust and brings cutting-edge treatments to our patients faster.

For further information please contact our team via research@uhnm.nhs.uk

Primary Care Commercial Research Delivery Centres (PC-CRDCs)

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). A significant investment of over £14 million has been awarded to establish 14 new Primary Care Commercial Research Delivery Centres (PC-CRDCs) across England.

This initiative, part of the VPAG Investment Programme, is a powerful public-private partnership designed to embed cutting-edge commercial clinical research within our local communities.

What This Means for Our Trust and Our Patients

This expansion is a major step forward for research in the UK. By integrating these 14 new GP-led centres with the existing network of 21 CRDCs, the NIHR is creating a robust and truly national research infrastructure.

For us at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM), this growing network means:

- **Increased Research Capacity:** The new centres will create more spaces for research delivery directly within local GP practices and community settings.
- **Improved Patient Access:** This initiative will make it easier for our patients and the public to access and participate in a wider range of important studies, often closer to home.
- **Optimised Research Delivery:** It ensures that every study can be delivered in the most appropriate setting, whether that's in a hospital or within primary care, enhancing the efficiency and relevance of our research.

This strategic development strengthens the entire UK research ecosystem, bringing a wealth of expertise and infrastructure to the forefront. It underscores a commitment to ensuring that patients everywhere can benefit from and contribute to the latest medical advancements.

We are excited about the opportunities this national network expansion will bring and look forward to collaborating to continue delivering world-class research for our community.

Find Out More

[Click here](#) to read the full announcement from the NIHR.



4. Innovation

From concept to implementation, our Innovation Manager helps staff bring ideas to life, supporting evaluation, adoption, and spread of innovations that improve patient care and operational efficiency.

Please contact our team via innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk for further support.

Update to NHS Intellectual Property Guidance

The UK Government has updated NHS intellectual property guidance for the first time in 23 years, making it easier for NHS staff and researchers to turn ideas into new treatments, technologies, and patient services. The updated framework simplifies legal processes and clarifies how innovations can be commercialised, supporting collaboration with industry and external partners.

For our UHNM staff, this means their research and innovative ideas have a clearer pathway to reach patients faster. Any financial returns from NHS-developed innovations will be reinvested into patient care and future research, helping UHNM continue to provide cutting-edge treatments. The changes also strengthen the NHS's role in global health innovation, aligning with the NHS Long Term Plan and boosting opportunities for staff-led projects to make a real impact.

For more information, please email innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk.





5. Governance, Research Funding and More

Our expert support teams set-up the study, keep your research safe, compliant, and on track, handling governance, costing, contracts, and everything in between.

Please contact us via research@uhnm.nhs.uk.

TriNetX Partnership with UHNM

TriNetX partners with NHS Trusts like University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) to overcome key challenges in clinical research, including budget pressures, fragmented data, and slow patient recruitment.

TriNetX provides a global, federated network and analytics platform that integrates structured and unstructured data, enabling faster trial setup, efficient patient identification, and improved access to industry-sponsored studies. This approach aligns with the NHS Value Sharing Framework and the Government's Life Sciences strategy.

In 2024, TriNetX 'Connect' supported 29 trial opportunities across 11 therapeutic areas, achieving a 53 per-cent increase in opportunities and a 62 per-cent reduction in response times compared with 2023. TriNetX also supports real-world evidence research, contributing to 34 UK publications in 2024.

For more information laura.Reid@trinetx.com.