University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust

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.

CRDC PPIE team connects with patients at local stoma support event

The North Midlands CRDC Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) team has been speaking to local patients about research and how they can help shape it.

Members of the team joined Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent at the Outlook North Staffordshire Ostomy Support Group's annual Open Day and Exhibition at Bradwell Lodge Community Centre earlier this month.

The event brought together patients, support organisations and exhibitors giving the team an opportunity to speak directly with people living with a stoma about their experiences and the importance of patient and public involvement in research.

Louise Barlow, Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Officer for the North Midlands CRDC said: "The visit went particularly well with meaningful conversations helping to highlight the value of involving patients and the public in shaping research."



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 patients take part in new vascular research trial

Patients at UHNM are helping to explore a potential new treatment for peripheral artery disease (PAD), a condition that affects blood flow to the legs and can cause pain when walking.

UHNM's Research and Innovation Department has recruited its first patients to the phase three ATTAIN-PAD clinical trial which is investigating whether a daily tablet called orforglipron could help people with PAD walk further without experiencing pain.

Orforglipron is an oral GLP-1 receptor agonist, with the study assessing the safety and effectiveness of the treatment and whether it could improve walking ability in people living with the condition.

The trial is part of UHNM's growing portfolio of vascular research, helping to give local people opportunities to participate in clinical studies investigating potential new treatments.



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

North Midlands CRDC highlights progress in commercial research

The North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) shared progress in growing commercial research across the region at its latest Cross-Sector Partners Board meeting in October.

Since its launch in April 2025 the CRDC has opened 33 commercial trials with a further 16 studies in setup across areas including cancer, stroke, neurology, respiratory medicine, paediatrics and vascular care.

The meeting also heard how patients in the North Midlands have been among the first to access new research opportunities, with the centre achieving four UK-first recruitments and one first-in-Europe recruitment.

Study delivery has continued to improve, during 2026/27 the median time taken to set up a commercial study has fallen to 58.5 days, within the NIHR's 60-day target, while the median time to a first participant's first visit is now 24.5 days, within the 30-day target.

Partners also discussed the next phase of the CRDC's work, including patient and public involvement, improving research processes and building capacity across the region.



4. Innovation

From concept to implementation, our Innovation Team 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.

Staff asked to help shape innovation at UHNM

Staff across UHNM are being asked to share their experiences and ideas as part of a new survey looking at how innovation can be supported across the Trust.

The Innovation Survey aims to build a clearer picture of innovation at UHNM including what is working well, where staff face barriers and what could make it easier for people to develop and progress new ideas.

The feedback will be used to identify areas for improvement and help shape future innovation work across the organisation, with a particular focus on making sure staff have the right support to take their ideas forward.

From new technology and different ways of working to simple ideas that make everyday care better for patients and staff the Innovation Team wants to hear from colleagues across all areas of UHNM.

Take part in the Innovation Survey



5. Governance, Research Funding and More

Behind every study are teams across UHNM whose expertise and support help make that work possible. Over the coming months we're shining a light on staff outside dedicated research roles whose contribution helps bring research to life and benefit patients.

Research and innovation celebrated at UHNM Annual Showcase

Almost 150 staff and partners came together for this year's UHNM Annual Showcase, celebrating the research, innovation and improvement work taking place across the Trust.

Research and innovation featured throughout the day with staff presenting projects covering new treatments, digital technology and new approaches to patient care. Staff also shared their work through poster presentations giving teams the opportunity to learn from projects taking place across UHNM.

The Research and Innovation team also hosted a stand at the event, speaking to staff and partners about the work taking place across UHNM and opportunities to get involved.

The day ended with awards recognising the best presentations and posters across research, innovation, education and improvement alongside a People's Choice Award voted for by attendees.