

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.

Research and innovation teams engage with public at UHNM AGM

Members of UHNM's Research and Innovation (R&I) team joined colleagues from the North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) team at this year's UHNM Annual General Meeting.

During the event the teams spoke with staff, patients, members of the public and stakeholders about research taking place across UHNM and the opportunities for people to get involved.

The AGM also provided an opportunity to highlight the role of patient and public involvement in research. The CRDC PPIE team shared information about how local people can contribute to research, helping ensure studies are designed and delivered with patients' needs and experiences.



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 stroke and neuroscience research recognised on international stage

Research at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) has received international recognition after three projects were chosen to be presented at one of Europe's leading stroke conferences.

The projects led by staff from UHNM's Research and Innovation, Stroke and Neuroscience teams were presented at the European Stroke Organisation Conference (ESOC) 2026.

The research explored different methods of feeding support for patients following stroke, including a ward-based pilot project, a review comparing feeding methods and research into whether ultrasound could be used at the bedside to confirm nasogastric tube placement.

Surabhi Saxena, Senior Research Practitioner, said: "Having our work recognised at an international conference was a proud moment for the whole team. These projects came from challenges and questions we see in our day-to-day work caring for patients, and the conference gave us the opportunity to share our findings and learn from others working in stroke care across Europe."

The team's work has also gained national recognition, with a related project recently published in Nursing Times. Further findings from the team will also be presented at the UK Stroke Forum later this year.



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

CRDC embraces AI to speed up research study set-up

The North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) is exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) could help speed up the process of bringing new commercial research studies to UHNM.

The team is working with UHNM's Digital Services and Performance teams to develop a new assessment process using Microsoft Forms and Copilot technology designed to reduce paperwork, improve reporting and make study set-up more efficient.

The project is one of a number of initiatives designed to help bring new research studies to UHNM faster, alongside the new AI-powered system the CRDC is also developing a tracking tool to help teams manage studies more efficiently and keep progress on track.



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.

Record number of innovation ideas submitted by UHNM staff

A record 62 innovation projects have now been registered through UHNM's Virtual Innovation Office highlighting the growing number of staff coming forward with ideas to improve patient care and services.

More resident doctors are also putting forward ideas than ever before, with projects focusing on everything from improving patient care to solving everyday challenges faced by staff and services.

Several projects are already being tested in practice, while others continue to be developed as teams explore new ways of working and improving care across the Trust.



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 support spotlight: Sleep and Ventilation Team

UHNM's Sleep and Ventilation Team has been recognised for its contribution to the DENIM study which explored whether more intensive support could help people with motor neurone disease (MND) use non-invasive ventilation more successfully.

The specialist team supports around 1,700 patients across the West Midlands, providing care both in clinic and in patients' homes. Alongside their day-to-day roles, they helped deliver additional monitoring and follow-up as part of the study, supporting patients through the early stages of treatment and helping to identify and address any issues quickly.

For the team one of the most rewarding aspects of the work was seeing the difference ventilation can make to patients' lives. By contributing their specialist expertise and close relationships with patients they helped support research that could improve quality of life, extend survival and shape future care for people living with MND.