

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.

Join the 2026 PPIE drop-in sessions

UHNM staff involved in research, innovation, quality improvement and engagement are encouraged to join the next UHNM CRDC Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Drop-In Session on 21 September 2026.

Taking place from 12pm to 1pm via Microsoft Teams, the informal session will provide practical guidance on embedding patient and public involvement throughout the lifecycle of research and innovation projects. Attendees will be able to hear examples of PPIE in action at UHNM, explore how involvement can strengthen project development and delivery, and discuss ideas with members of the PPIE Team.

The session will also provide an opportunity for colleagues to share experiences, learn from others and ask questions about incorporating meaningful public involvement into their work.

Whether you are new to PPIE or looking to build on existing experience, the drop-in session offers a valuable opportunity to learn more about approaches that can help ensure research and innovation are shaped by the people they are designed to benefit.

Teams joining details will be circulated ahead of the session. For further information contact louise.barlow@uhnm.nhs.uk.





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 first in the UK to recruit patient onto pioneering migraine clinical trial

Patients living with chronic migraine are being offered access to a pioneering new clinical trial at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM).

UHNM has become the first NHS Trust in the UK to recruit a patient onto the MINT-C trial, with the Royal Stoke University Hospital currently the only UK centre taking part in the international study.

The trial, led by UHNM's Research and Innovation team, is evaluating a new type of botulinum toxin treatment which researchers hope could help reduce the frequency of migraine attacks while requiring fewer injections than existing therapies.

Ukraina Garcia, lead research practitioner, said: "I am incredibly proud of our team's achievement in opening and delivering the MINT-C trial, enabling the first patient in the UK to be recruited to this important study. This milestone reflects the dedication, expertise and collaborative approach of not only our chief investigator but our research nurses and practitioners, consultants and support services who work tirelessly to ensure patients have access to innovative treatments through clinical research." [More>](#)



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

Second CRDC partnership meeting highlights progress and future plans

The second meeting of the Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) North Midlands Cross-Sector Partners Board brought together representatives from healthcare, academia, primary care and patient organisations to review progress and help shape the future direction of the CRDC.

The meeting was attended by colleagues from UHNM, NHS partners, primary care, Healthwatch and patient and public involvement (PPIE) representatives, reflecting the wide range of organisations working together to support research across the region.

Partners heard about the progress made since the CRDC launched, including investment in research facilities, expanded pharmacy and pathology capacity, dedicated research spaces and plans to further develop research capability across Staffordshire.

The meeting also highlighted the important role of patients and communities in shaping research, with updates on engagement activity and new tools to support researchers to involve the public throughout the research process.



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@uhnms.nhs.uk for further support.

Protecting Innovation at UHNM

UHNMs are launching a new Intellectual Property (IP) policy awareness programme to help staff understand how innovations developed across the Trust can be protected and translated into benefits for patients.

The policy highlights the wide range of intellectual property generated through clinical practice, research and service improvement, including inventions, software, educational materials, databases, artificial intelligence tools and research outputs. By identifying and protecting these assets early, UHNMs can maximise opportunities for patient benefit, healthcare improvement and commercial collaboration.

The policy also outlines arrangements for ownership and commercialisation, ensuring innovators are recognised and rewarded for their contributions. Where innovation generates commercial income, revenue is shared between inventors, clinical directorates and the Trust, helping reinvest success into future research, innovation and patient care.

For more details [email](#) Mohammad Syed, Innovation Manager.





UHNM Annual Showcase 2026: Advancing Excellence Together

The best joined-up care for all

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.

UHNM Annual Showcase Returns for 2026

UHNM's Annual Showcase will return for its fifth year on Monday 12 October 2026, bringing together colleagues from across the Trust to celebrate excellence in education, innovation, continuous improvement and research.

Taking place at the Wade Conference Centre in Stoke-on-Trent, the event will provide staff and students with an opportunity to share their work through poster and oral presentations, highlighting projects that are making a difference to patient care, staff experience and organisational development.

Abstract submissions are now open, and colleagues are encouraged to showcase their achievements, share learning and connect with peers from across the organisation. Entries are invited across four categories: Education, Innovation, Continuous Improvement and Research. Prizes will be awarded in each theme, recognising outstanding contributions and achievements.

The free event will run from 8.30am to 4pm, with lunch provided. Key deadlines include abstract submission by 12 August, with successful entrants notified by 28 August.

Book your place [here](#).

For more details email annual.showcase@uhnm.nhs.uk.