

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 Medical Research and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

Our experienced team can support our medical colleagues 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.

UHNH has received government funding to launch a national research trial to improve surgical outcomes for endometriosis patients.

UHNH-Led Study Aims to Make Diagnosing Children's Lung Infections Less Invasive

In 2021, Dr Francis Gilchrist, Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician, was awarded funding by the NIHR for the study: Comparison of Lower Airway Sampling Strategies in Children with Protracted Bacterial Bronchitis (CLASSIC-PBB): A non-randomised, internally controlled, multicentre trial.

This was a multi-centre study (including Staffordshire Children's Hospital at Royal Stoke (UHNH); Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Liverpool), Great North Children's Hospital (Newcastle upon Tyne), Sheffield Children's Hospital and Keele University) which was led by Dr Gilchrist and managed by the UHNH Trial Management Team.

The study aimed to determine whether cough swab or induced sputum were viable alternatives to bronchoalveolar lavage (taken during flexible bronchoscopy - which is invasive and unpleasant for the children) for trying to identify the causative pathogen of protracted bacterial bronchitis. The study has now successfully completed and is submitted for consideration for publication in a scientific journal. We will release further comms with details of the findings and future work in due



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 research trial aims to help mums-to-be quit smoking easier

Mums-to-be are being encouraged to take part in a national research trial at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) designed to make it easier to stop smoking during pregnancy.

The SNAP-3 trial is exploring how to improve the use of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) as a stop smoking aid for pregnant women.

The study, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and led nationally by the University of Nottingham, will randomly allocate participants to one of two treatments, either the current gold-standard NHS stop smoking support including NRT or the same support with additional telephone coaching and advice on using NRT in a new way.

SNAP-3 is open to women who are less than 25 weeks pregnant and smoke five or more cigarettes a day. The study aims to recruit 1,430 women nationally.

Dr Angela Hancock, consultant midwife for public health, NIHR senior research leader and principal investigator for the SNAP-3 study at UHNM, said: "The aim of the SNAP-3 study is to test how effective nicotine replacement therapy can be when paired with enhanced behavioural support. We want to improve the ways we help pregnant women to use NRT confidently, giving them the best chance of stopping smoking."



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

UHNM opens North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) has officially opened its brand new £3.1million North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) at the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

Funded through £3.1 million of government investment, the North Midlands CRDC forms part of a UK-wide initiative of 21 CRDCs to improve the NHS's ability to deliver high-quality research whilst improving health outcomes.

The North Midlands CRDC was officially opened by Dr Simon Constable UHNM Chief Executive and patient Malcolm Scovell, who is taking part in myeloma research at UHNM.

Professor Kamaraj Karunanithi, director of research and Innovation at UHNM, said "The opening of the North Midlands CRDC marks a major milestone for UHNM and our local communities, helping us to reach people who rarely take part in NHS research by offering access to innovative treatments and expanding our research and innovation capacity."



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.

Take the first step! Join our Innovation Think Tanks

The Research and Innovation Department are encouraging UHNM colleagues to join our Innovation Think Tank Workshops over the next six months. These workshops are your opportunity to collaborate, gain resources, and access the expertise needed to bring your ideas to life.

- **Think Tank 1:** Digital and Artificial Intelligence powered solutions
- **Think Tank 2:** Navigating existing NHS systems
- **Think Tank 3:** Grant funding
- **Think Tank 4:** Intellectual Property

To register your interest for these workshops 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.

Update on ICH E6(R3): Upcoming GCP Changes

The new ICH E6(R3) Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guideline has now been finalised. However, the UK will continue to follow ICH E6(R2) until the new clinical trials legislation comes into effect on 28 April 2026.

To reduce disruption, both the updated UK Clinical Trials Regulations and ICH E6(R3) will be implemented at the same time.

Key Points:

- Now until April 2026: Continue to follow ICH E6(R2).
- From December 2025: MHRA will issue guidance and supporting information.
- NIHR is updating its learning materials to help teams prepare early for the new standard.
- Further details on implementation will follow once MHRA guidance is released.

In the meantime, research teams should stay informed and begin planning for the transition to ICH E6(R3) in 2026. Further information will be provided on how we will move forward with implementing the process for updating GCPs after December 2025, once the MHRA have issued their guidance and any related dependencies.