

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 CRDC PPIE team hosts first community engagement event to shape research delivery

The UHNM CRDC Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Team, working in partnership with Engaging Communities Solutions CIC (ECS), which delivers Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent, has hosted its first in-person public engagement event.

Held on 24 February 2026 at The Bridge Centre Trust, the session introduced the North Midlands CRDC and its aims, and invited community members to help shape how the initiative is delivered across the populations served by UHNM. The event was fully booked and generated strong interest, with valuable discussion and practical ideas to inform the next phase of the CRDC's development.

The evening marked an important milestone in strengthening patient and public involvement in research and innovation, and highlighted the benefits of collaborative working with community partners. Thank you to Deb Faulks and Sophia Leese from ECS, and to all community representatives who contributed their time and insights.



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 amongst top UK recruiters for national cystic fibrosis diabetes trial

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) has been recognised as one of the top recruiting sites for CL4P-CF, a national clinical trial sponsored by the University of Cambridge supporting people living with Cystic Fibrosis Diabetes (CFD).

UHNM's Cystic Fibrosis team successfully over-recruited to the trial, with all seven participants enrolled within just two months of the study opening at UHNM following delays in study set-up. The study was delivered in partnership with UHNM's Research and Innovation (R&I) team, who supported the set-up and governance processes to enable recruitment to begin.

The randomised, multi-centre trial is looking at whether a new automated insulin delivery system can help people keep their blood sugar levels more stable and improve their day-to-day quality of life compared with the usual insulin treatment and glucose monitoring currently used for those with CF diabetes.

Laura Barlow, cystic fibrosis clinical nurse specialist and principal investigator, said: "It's fantastic that some of our patients have been able to take part in such an important clinical study which has the potential to greatly improve their health and quality of life.

"Hopefully the study will pave the way for automated insulin delivery systems to be available to more patients with CFD in the future. Participation in research is vital for shaping future care and treatments, and it is wonderful for our patients and for us to be involved in this study".



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

First North Midlands CRDC patient praises UHNM's Research & Innovation department for care and support

The first patient recruited to the North Midlands Clinical Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) has praised UHNM's Research and Innovation (R&I) department after becoming the first person in the UK to join a new global stroke trial.

Lynn Doherty, 65, from Bradley, was brought to Royal Stoke University Hospital after experiencing a stroke and was identified as eligible for the ReMEDy2 study. Delivered through the North Midlands CRDC in partnership with UHNM's stroke service and R&I teams, the trial is evaluating a potential new treatment for patients unable to receive standard clot-busting therapy in time.

Lynn said: "From the moment I arrived, the team were calm, reassuring and completely on top of everything. The care on the day and since has been excellent, I can't fault it.

"They explained the trial clearly, kept my family informed and organised everything, including transport. I felt genuinely looked after.

"Saying yes to research was about helping future patients, but the support I've had has been incredible."



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.

R&I support helps turn staff ideas into funded innovation projects

UHNM colleagues with ideas to improve patient care, streamline services or introduce new technology are being encouraged to come forward as UHNM strengthens and improves its route to securing external innovation funding.

The Innovation team is offering structured, end-to-end support, from early discussion and completion of an innovation disclosure through proposal development, costing and governance to final submission to national funders including the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), Innovate UK and SBRI Healthcare.

The team works with clinicians, operational colleagues and corporate services to shape ideas into robust, deliverable projects aligned with UHNM priorities, ensuring budgets are accurate and approvals are in place before submission.

Whether the proposal involves digital solutions, medical devices, pathway redesign or collaboration with industry and academia, early engagement is key. Colleagues who believe their idea could make a difference to patients or staff are encouraged to contact the Innovation team to begin the process.

Get in touch with the team at innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk for more information.





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.

Governance: New Good Clinical Practice (GCP) regulations from April 2026

From April 2026, updated regulations for running clinical trials in the UK will be introduced, and ICH GCP E6 (R3) principles will become the required standard under UK law.

GCP represents the international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, recording and reporting clinical trials involving human participants. It ensures that participant rights, safety and wellbeing are protected, and that study data are credible and reliable.

The ICH GCP E6 (R3) revision reflects a modernised, risk-based and proportionate approach to clinical trial governance and quality throughout the trial lifecycle, emphasising quality by design, clear roles and responsibilities, and up-to-date training.

NIHR continues to update its GCP training packages to support NHS staff in preparing for these changes. All staff involved in clinical research delivery should ensure they complete appropriate GCP training and remain aware of the upcoming regulatory requirements.

[Click here](#) for more information.