

# 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 Drop-In Sessions 2026**

The UHNM CRDC Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Team invites all colleagues to join our 2026 PPIE Drop-In Sessions on MS Teams. These sessions are open to all UHNM staff involved in research, innovation, quality improvement or engagement. They provide an opportunity to learn more about embedding PPIE into your work and to discuss ideas with the PPIE Team.

What the sessions will cover:

- Examples of PPIE in action at UHNM
- Open discussion on embedding PPIE across all stages of research and innovation
- How PPIE supports idea development, delivery and dissemination
- Sharing staff experiences of PPIE
- Q&A with the PPIE Team

Session dates for 2026 (all 12-1pm via MS Teams)

- 2 March
- 15 June
- 21 September
- 30 November

Teams links will be circulated ahead of each session. For any queries, please contact the UHNM CRDC PPIE Team.



## 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 welcomes first dedicated MND research nurse**

Patients with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) at University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM) are set to benefit from a new dedicated research role.

Kelly Westwood has joined UHNM as its first Lead MND Association Research Nurse, a role funded by the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA).

Kelly works across UHNM to help patients to take part in clinical trials, improve access to new studies and treatments and support people living with MND.

“I’ve always been drawn to research because it offers hope, which is especially important for conditions like MND where treatment options are limited. While I’ve previously supported patients through research in renal and neurology care, this role allows me to focus entirely on MND, dedicating my time to supporting patients and their families, keeping them informed about suitable clinical studies, and working with the wider care team to help improve future 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](mailto:research@uhnm.nhs.uk)**

#### **North Midlands CRDC recruits first UK patient to new global stroke trial**

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) has become the first hospital in the UK to recruit a patient into ReMEDy2, an international clinical trial testing a new potential treatment for stroke.

The study, the first at the new North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC), is looking at whether a new medication called DM199 could help patients who have a moderate stroke but arrive at hospital too late to receive the current standard clot-busting treatment.

For many stroke patients, clot-busting drugs must be given within the first few hours of suffering a stroke, but the *ReMEDy2* trial aims to extend this window to 24 hours, testing DM199 to improve blood flow, support brain recovery, and help patients regain independence.

The study is being delivered through the CRDC in close partnership with UHNM's stroke service and Research & Innovation (R&I) teams.



## 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](mailto:innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk) for further support.

### **Innovation: Transforming care, together**

Have your say on innovation at UHNM! Please take a few minutes to complete our Innovation Survey and help us shape the future of care.

Innovation is about introducing new ideas, products, or approaches that improve the quality of health and care across the NHS. Your input will help us:

- Understand the Current Innovation Landscape: Where are we now, and what's working?
- Spot Opportunities for Improvement: Identify areas where innovation could make the biggest impact.
- Gather Fresh Ideas and Insights: Your experiences and suggestions matter.
- Prioritize Innovation Efforts: Focus on what will benefit patients and staff most.
- Foster a Culture of Innovation: Encourage creativity and new ways of working across UHNM.

By taking part, you'll play a vital role in driving continuous improvement, enhancing patient care, and shaping the future of health services in our region.

Make your voice heard by completing the survey [here](#).





## 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](mailto:research@uhnm.nhs.uk).

### Pharmacy Funding Success

The Academic Development Team works with consultants and clinicians across UHNM to support them in applying for research grants.

But did you know that they also successfully support non-research grant applications, such as infrastructure bids?

Recently the team worked with Pharmacy to secure a National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Research Delivery Network Pharmacy Pump-Prime award for £82,043.

This award will provide staff from Pharmacy with training opportunities and new equipment and will strengthen the way they work with the Research and Innovation department in the future.

For more information email [simon.lea@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:simon.lea@uhnm.nhs.uk).