



Mental Health
Research Network



NHS

**National Institute for
Health Research**

Commercial research making a difference...

**to your patients... to your career
... and to the country's economy**

Pharmaceutical companies are looking for psychiatrists and other mental health professionals willing to act as principal investigators on clinical trials recruiting through NHS services. These trials are testing new drugs and formulations and lead to better, more effective treatments for a range of mental health problems.

The National Institute for Health Research Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) helps make both publicly-funded and

industry-sponsored research happen within the NHS. We offer comprehensive support to principal investigators, helping them recruit participants and arrange the necessary paperwork.

We only support studies that pass strict adoption criteria. That means if you work on an MHRN-supported commercial clinical trial, you can be guaranteed that the study is of clear benefit to NHS patients.

Interested in getting involved?

A new scheme launched by the MHRN Heart of England Hub (regional office) gives junior psychiatrists, consultants, nurses and other mental health professionals the training and information they need to become principal investigators. Experienced clinicians who already work on industry-led studies are available to provide advice, guidance and support to first-time principal investigators. The scheme has the support of NHS trusts and pharmaceutical companies.

To find out more...

...about the scheme

contact Carly Cooper or Gemma Borland at the MHRN Heart of England Hub, telephone 0121 678 4326, email carly.cooper@bsmhft.nhs.uk

...about the

Mental Health Research Network, visit www.mhrn.info



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Benefits for patients

People who agree to take part in clinical trials are given access to the latest treatments and cutting edge therapies. New compounds may have fewer side effects and help people manage their symptoms more effectively. NHS trusts that participate in research trials are proven to have better patient outcomes.

Benefits for psychiatrists

Taking part in commercial research studies will:

- help you meet ongoing CPD requirements;
- generate income from industry sponsors that can be used within your department;
- give you the chance to meet experienced researchers;
- help find the most effective treatments and contribute to the evidence-base that informs clinical practice.

Benefits for nurses

Taking part in commercial research studies will:

- satisfy the PREP CPD requirements for maintaining your NMC registration;
- help you meet targets set for the KSF core dimensions relating to Service Improvement and Quality;
- help you ensure your practice is evidence-based;
- help find the most effective treatments and contribute to the evidence-base that informs clinical practice.

The bigger picture

It is important to carry out clinical trials within the NHS with the help of people who will ultimately benefit from the new treatments. The results of research carried out in other countries may not apply to the UK population.

Industry-led research is vital to the UK economy, but is facing a decline due to competition from countries such as India and China because it is cheaper to run studies and trials there. Pharmaceutical companies are willing to invest in studies in this country if they have access to reliable principal investigators who can advise on the feasibility of running a trial and help them recruit participants.