

Making it easier to do research that people can trust

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What I will cover

- About the HRA
- Our role in developing NHS Innovation
 - Doing research that people can trust
 - Making it easy
- The opportunity



Our vision

High-quality health and social care research today which improves everyone's health and wellbeing tomorrow.

Our mission

We make it easier to do research that people can trust.



Our objectives



Supporting UK growth
in life sciences



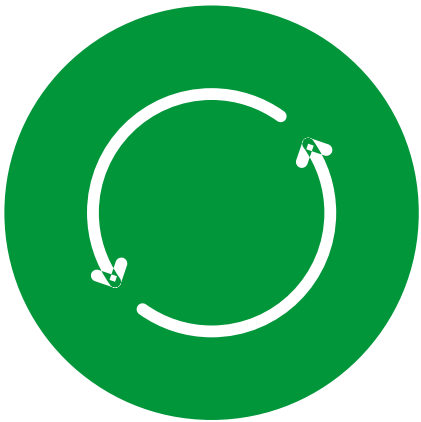
Helping reduce
health inequalities



Increasing the impact
of money invested

Achieving our objectives

To achieve our objectives we need to be:



Simple



Fast



Trusted



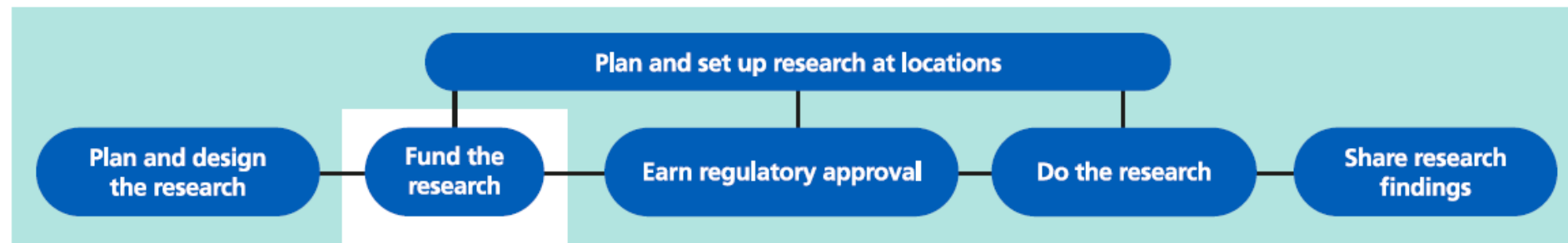
Effective

How we work in partnership to make it easy to plan, support, manage and complete health and social care research in the UK

We provide and are improving our digital systems to help researchers follow an ideal path to do their research.

We are standardising processes, using our assurances to reduce duplication.

We reduce the burden, time, and cost to do research.



We support researchers to plan and design their research well. This includes involving the people the research is for and about to make sure they can take part.

We help researchers to find out what they need to do to do their research ethically and earn approvals and assurances so that their research can go ahead. We provide these approvals and assurances.

These assurances are then used by the places where research will take place to set up and start the research.

We review any changes to the research so that people can still trust it.

We provide the Over-Volunteering Prevention System (TOPS).

We encourage and support researchers to register their research.

We encourage and support researchers to publicly report their results and feed back to the people that took part.

-  HRA activity with health and care research partners UK-wide
-  Scope of the HRA's digital services
-  HRA activity



Doing research that people can trust

For research and innovation to be successful, people need to be confident and able to take part and use research findings.

We asked the public about research and 68% of UK adults said that they would take part in research if asked. This is positive, but it also means 32% are less likely or not sure whether they would take part.

A quarter of UK adults are not confident or not sure that they would be treated well if they took part in research.



Doing research that people can trust

30% of Black people were worried they would not be treated well if they took part in a health or social care research study. This is significantly higher number than White people (18%) and Asian people (20%).

A survey conducted by YouGov of a representative sample of 5030 people from across the UK collected through online methods between 27 April 2023 and 16 May 2023. [Public Perceptions of Research - Health Research Authority](#)



Doing research that people can trust

Given the right opportunities, many people would choose to take part in research.

We know that there are three things important to them in doing so:

- trust – people trust the research and the research team
 - purpose – people feel the purpose is worthwhile
 - possibility – people are able and confident to take part
- 

Doing research that people can trust

We are working with people and the wider research system to set shared expectations for how to design and conduct research in a way that meets these characteristics and encourage compliance with these.

- Research is more transparent
- More research meaningfully involves the public to inform the way it is done
- There is greater representation in, and access to, research so that people from all backgrounds across the UK can take part in research relevant to them.



Making it easy

Making it easy to plan, approve, set up, manage and complete research that people can trust in the UK.





Making it easy

We give approvals and assurances, working in partnership UK-wide to provide a world-class regulatory system

We are focused on continuously reducing the average and maximum time it takes for researchers to earn the approvals that they need for their research to go ahead.

100% of approvals of clinical trials were delivered within 60 days over the last 22-months, supporting the target for clinical trial set up in the UK to be cut to 150 days and further in the longer term



Clinical Trial Regulations

Making it easier to do research that people can trust through legislative reform

- Published our final clinical trial regulations guidance. To be used to update process before regulations come into force in April 2026
- Find out more in our [Clinical Trials update](#).



UK Clinical Research Delivery Programme

We want to lead parallel reform shifts. These shifts are focused on improving timely access to health and care research, supporting a world-leading environment for life sciences research:

- **Streamline and reform the set-up and delivery of clinical trials** through digitalisation, implementing new UK clinical trial regulations, introducing nationally legal and contractual mechanisms for research sponsors, and address other delays not associated with contracting. We will also make trials more accessible to participants via digital means.
- **Drive a ‘right research, right setting’ initiative**, to include a radical move to research delivery in primary and community care – fully unlocking the potential of clinical trial delivery in out-of-hospital settings, including through establishing regional models for trial delivery in the community.
- **Move from a reactive to a proactive ‘prevention’ model of portfolio management**, including supporting the workforce and continuing to embed a research and innovation culture across the health and social care system.

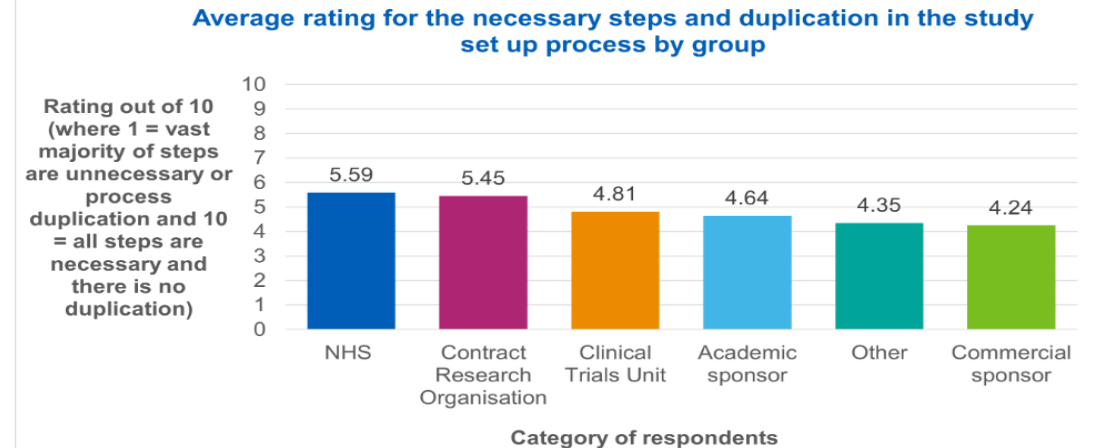
Success looks like

- ✓ standardised set-up practice across the NHS - greater predictability
- ✓ simplified set-up process for sponsors and sites - remove duplication
- ✓ simpler and faster experience for sites and sponsors – easier for sites and sponsors

Home > Planning and improving research > Improving research >
Our work as part of UKCRD to streamline and reform study set-up >

Study set-up at site - our survey results

Last updated on 28 Aug 2025



[Study set-up at site - our survey results - Health Research Authority](#)





Streamlined and efficient clinical research

We are setting out the **ideal path** to do clinical research:

- ✓ the right information at the right time for the right purpose
- ✓ how **set-up** should best happen across the NHS, removing unnecessary duplication. Starting with Pharmacy, radiation, information governance
- ✓ creating a standardised, single contracting process

Our ambition is to drive this through digital systems



Our vision for Plan and Manage Health and Care Research – a new digital service

We will connect the processes for health and social care research in the UK.

We will help people work together to plan, approve, set up, manage and complete research.

The opportunity

“By supporting innovation from lab bench to bedside, and strengthening our clinical trials ecosystem, we will make the UK the most attractive place in the world to develop and deploy new treatments and technologies. And we will do so in a way that supports our National Health Service (NHS), not strains it – by embracing the 3 major health shifts this government is determined to deliver”

[Life Sciences Sector Plan - GOV.UK](#)



Health Research
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Thank you

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