

Sheffield Primary Care Research

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Executive Summary

Sheffield Primary Care Research is a collaboration between GP practices in Sheffield which has a combined list size of 100,00 patients. Our team is highly skilled, highly experienced and has a track record in rapidly identifying suitable patients to take part in clinical research and delivering research studies. If you would like to collaborate with us we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Background

Primary care in Sheffield has enormous potential to contribute to the local clinical research network (CRN) in Yorkshire and Humber (Y&H). Our member practices are strongly supported by NHS Sheffield (the local Clinical Commissioning Group) and all practices are in close proximity to Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation trust (STH) and the University of Sheffield. STH is the host organisation for the LCRN Y&H. The University of Sheffield (UoS) has an internationally renowned medical school has many high profile academics who are Chief Investigators or are involved in the delivery of CRN portfolio studies.

What is Sheffield Primary Care Research (SPCR-100,000)?

We are a 'cluster' of ten practices with a combined population of approximately 100,000 patients who collaborate on recruiting to NIHR portfolio studies. We undertake PIC (Patient Identification Centre) work, academic work and commercial work. Each member practice has a lead GP and a Clinical Trials Research Administrator (CTRA). We are supported by the CRN Yorkshire & Humber diabetes & primary care team, which consists of 5 research sisters, a clinical studies officer and clinical trial assistant. We have close links with the Hazel Brook, the Commercial Studies Support Manager. The cluster is led by Dr Jon Dickson and employs a research nurse, Catherine Allan.

Dr Dickson is an NIHR Clinical Lecturer in General Practice at the University of Sheffield, he has been working on practice-based research for four years. He is an honorary GP at Richmond Medical Centre where he has undertaken a large number of NIHR portfolio studies. He is a member of the Primary Care Steering Group for the CRN Y&H. Nurse Allan is an experienced practice nurse, she has over 10 years experience in research within primary and secondary care. She has a wealth of experience in academic and commercial research. Her experience includes establishing links with new PI's and sites, study set up, designing and executing searches, patient recruitment, obtaining informed consent, coordinating study personnel, and patient visits, medication dispensing, data management and invoicing, all in a commercial environment. She has a clear understanding of the importance of good research whether academic or commercial and has a good track record of patient recruitment, meeting targets and data management. Each of our member practices has a lead-GP all of whom are fully accredited with Research Ready and Good Clinical Practice. The electronic records of all our patients can be rapidly and automatically searched to identify suitable patients. These searches can be refined with manual searching undertaken by our GPs.

Research Activity in 2015/16

We are the highest recruiting cluster in Y&H. This year we have recruited over 2,000 patients to NIHR portfolio studies and came second in Project Twenty. Our recruits took part in the following studies (accruals to end of October 2015 in brackets): Alcohol Use in People Aged 50 and Over (1780), Recovering Quality of Life (ReQoL) (983), TIME (128), Factors that influence antibiotic prescribing habits for acne (43), ALL-HEART (27), HEAT (14), Early Arthritis (1-10), Passive Fluenz Tetra Safety Surveillance (1-10), GARFIELD (1-10), The Million Women Study (1-10), CAP Trial (1-10), The United Kingdom Aneurysm Growth Study (1-10). BEEP (PIC, over 95 invitation letters sent).

Our Vision

We strive to make an important contribution to clinical research in the NHS in Y&H. Our vision is to give patients the opportunity to take part in research, to meet the high level objectives (HLOs) of the NIHR, to engage with all divisions of the LCRN Y&H and to engage with key stake holders in Y&H especially in Sheffield. Our principal objectives are: to increase the number of patients recruited to portfolio studies and the speed with which they are recruited. Primary care is an essential part of the health care system in the NHS and the skills of GPs are essential not only to the delivery of health care but the delivery of clinical research.