

Research Ethics Committee (REC) approvals

RECs conduct an ethical review of the research. Only one ethical review is required for any research within the UK except where the research involves adults unable to consent for themselves (local REC approval for single-site studies or multi REC approval for UK-wide multi-centre studies). Applications are made via the on-line Integrated Research Application System (IRAS).

Research and Development (R&D) permissions

R&D committees conduct local approval processes and are administered by each NHS Trust where the research will take place. R&D approval must be in place before the research can take place within an NHS Trust. Applications made via IRAS.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approvals

The MHRA is responsible for the regulation of medicines and medical devices and equipment used in healthcare and the investigation of harmful incidents. MHRA approval is required in addition to REC and R&D approvals if the trial involves medicine or healthcare product use. Applications made alongside REC application via IRAS.

Streamlined NHS Permissions Approach to Research- Wales (SPARC)

The system in place in Wales for processing all primary care research studies requiring NHS permissions.

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Coordinated System for gaining NHS Permission (CSP)

The system in place in England that is designed to support the application and approvals process for gaining NHS R&D approvals for NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Portfolio Studies.

Comprehensive Local Research Networks (CLRNs)- England and National Institute for Social Care and Health Research Clinical Research Centre (NISCHR CRC)- Wales

Research Networks whose remit is to encourage participation in a range of high quality clinical studies in the NIHR CRN portfolio and to provide a coordinated and efficient infrastructure of research personnel and facilities to support recruitment.

NHS Research Scotland (NRS) Permissions Coordinating Centre (CC)

NRS Permissions CC provides a portal for the approval of multi-centre clinical research studies. It provides a single point of contact for liaison with NHS Scotland R&D offices, facilitating the approval of clinical studies.