



Working with clinicians

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Conducting research with clinicians

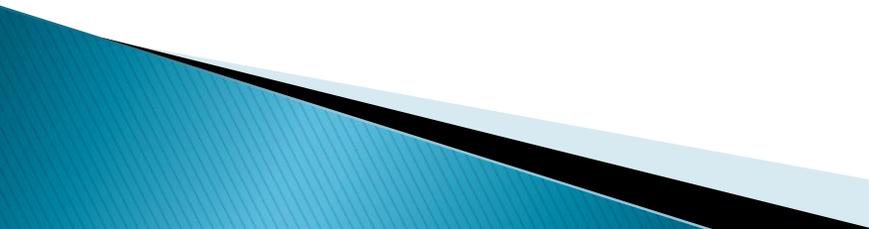
- ▶ Fundamental questions in contemporary academic research need interdisciplinary perspective
 - ▶ Many academic research staff will need to work with clinicians
 - ▶ Offers unique opportunities for differing perspectives on research question
 - ▶ Poses challenges to the proposed research model
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Clinicians and research

- ▶ Undergraduate and postgraduate education on research limited
- ▶ Focused on interpretation of evidence rather than participation in research
- ▶ Increased NHS clinician commitment to Quality Improvement activities such as audit



Organisation of Health Services Research

- ▶ National Institute Health Research
 - ▶ Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (CRN) which is DOH funded
 - ▶ Aim support research 'to make patients and NHS better'
 - ▶ Expand clinical research to involve all patients and NHS staff
 - ▶ Facilitate quality, speed and coordination of research
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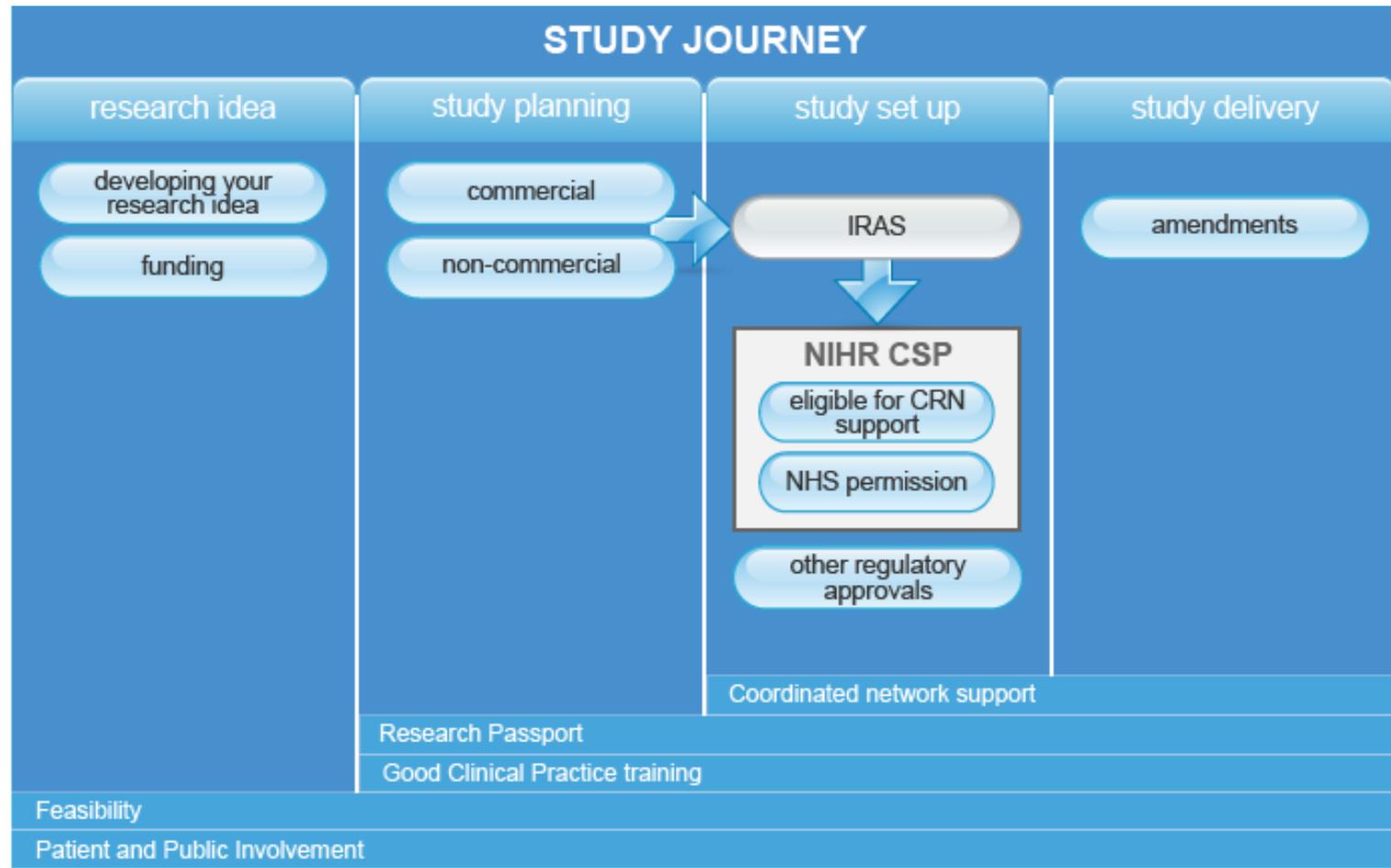
Comprehensive Clinical Research Networks

- ▶ Organised into 25 local CRN's in England
 - ▶ Each local CRN has Speciality Groups where there is topic specific expertise
 - ▶ Local research network has clinical director and senior manager
 - ▶ Team also includes: health professionals, basic scientists; research management and governance; data managers; administrative staff
 - ▶ Greater Manchester CRN
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What practical support for CRN provide

- ▶ Reduce red tape in setting up study
 - ▶ Enhance NHS resources by funding people and facilities in clinical areas (NHS service support, research costs, treatment costs)
 - ▶ Help to identify sites and recruit patients for research
 - ▶ Advice researchers on how to make research work in clinical environment
 - ▶ Monitor study progress
 - ▶ Facilitate involvement of patients, carers and public in clinical research
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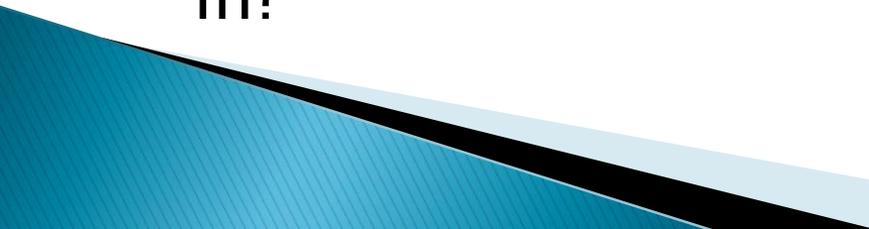
Clinical Research Networks UK



Making research work with clinicians

- ▶ Best patient care is focus of most clinicians
 - ▶ Evidence based practice leads to this
 - ▶ Clinical work environment has many competing interests
 - ▶ What are the critical questions in mind of clinicians
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Critical questions for clinicians considering research

- ▶ Does this study address an important issue I see in practice?
 - ▶ Could the project or the findings change my practice?
 - ▶ Could this research alter the clinical practice of others?
 - ▶ Will it affect my community ?
 - ▶ Does the work seem feasible based on my experience?
 - ▶ Will the project impact on health policy?
 - ▶ How will the work affect the clinical area I work in?
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How do I find a clinician interested in collaboration

- ▶ Find clinician with similar interestt
- ▶ Use the local CRN
- ▶ Rigorous, practical study designs that are responsive to the clinicians needs
- ▶ Explore the degree of involvement the clinician would wish



Key collaboration challenges clinical research

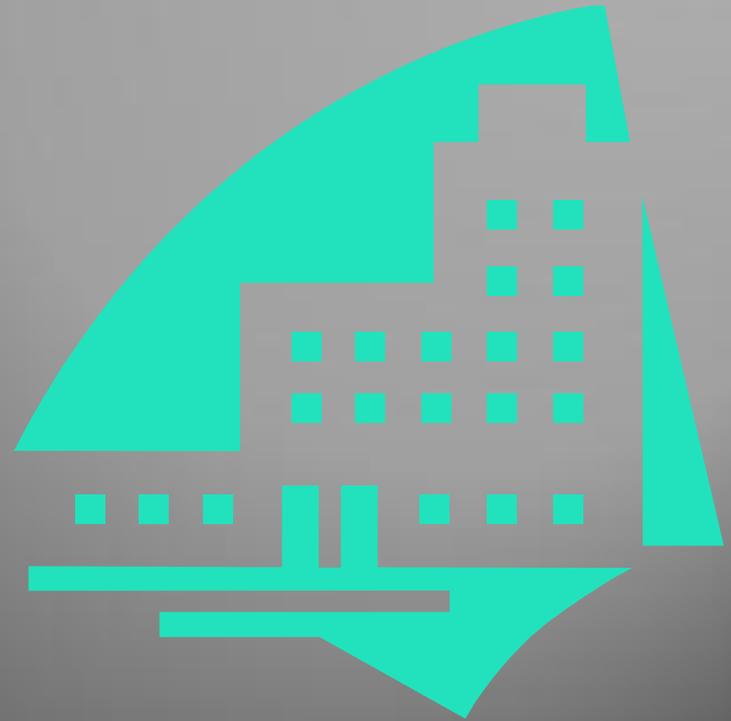
- ▶ Appropriate clinical setting
 - ▶ Gaining access to the site
 - ▶ Establish staff researcher relationships
 - ▶ Recruiting participants
 - ▶ Finding time for the study
 - ▶ Collecting data
 - ▶ Funding adequacy
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Appropriate clinical setting

- ▶ Critical importance
 - ▶ Proximity to researcher
 - ▶ Anticipated support
 - ▶ Experience at site of research (CRN)
 - ▶ Availability of networking opportunities
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Gaining access to the site

- ▶ Researcher previous contact with site
- ▶ Written approval of clinical administration
- ▶ Time delays in gaining necessary approval



Establish staff researcher relationships

- ▶ Buy-in by staff critical
 - ▶ Before study commences engage with local team
 - ▶ Pre-study presentations to the clinical staff
 - ▶ Study posters
 - ▶ Regular meetings during project to iron out issues
 - ▶ Possible project re-design to integrate with local routines
 - ▶ Progress meetings of results
 - ▶ Letters for staff of participation for their PDR
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Recruiting participants

- ▶ Consider the impact of clinical service on recruitment opportunity
 - ▶ Well designed recruitment process
 - ▶ Local key person(s)
 - ▶ Multidisciplinary recruitment
 - ▶ Study funded recruitment personnel
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Finding time for the study

- ▶ Clinical job plan and directorate priorities
- ▶ Time management to integrate research
- ▶ Funding release time from clinical activity



Collecting data

- ▶ Differences in clinical data collection
 - ▶ Changes in clinical protocol during research project
 - ▶ Support and monitoring of the collection process
 - ▶ Limits of access
 - ▶ Funded support for collection
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Obtaining adequate funding

- ▶ Health service environments more budget focused
 - ▶ Careful detailed costing project
 - ▶ Funding release time
 - ▶ Using the CRN support available
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Working with clinicians

- ▶ Understand the clinical context of the research question
 - ▶ Use research networks to identify receptive clinicians
 - ▶ Appreciate members of clinical teams differing foci
 - ▶ Research must be translatable into clear patient benefit
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