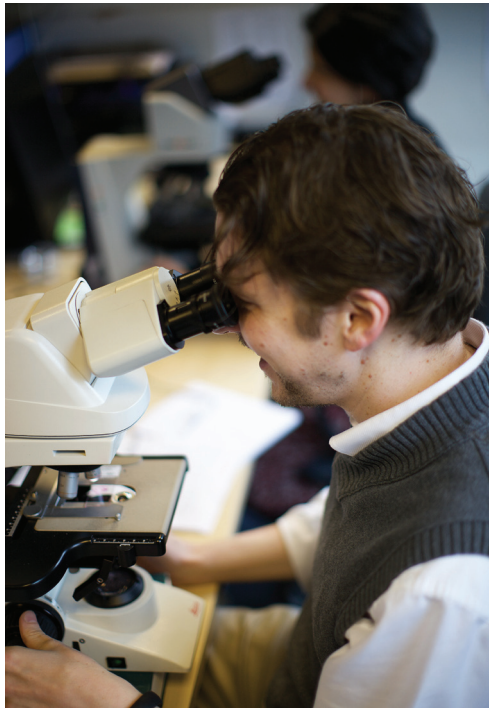


Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Oxford. You can find out more here: <http://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/public/get-involved/>

- You may also donate tissue (e.g. skin) or anonymous data that was collected/removed during the time you were a patient in hospital. This will be stored securely and used within future ethically approved research without any identifiable information so no one can trace the tissue or data back to you.

Virtually every treatment option available today is the result of active clinical research participation. The input of the public and patients is extremely valuable and can help to shape the future of modern medicine



Did you know...?

1. You can take part in any type of research study as long as you meet the inclusion criteria.
2. You do not need to wait to be approached by a doctor or GP – you can approach any clinical care team and ask them about what studies you would be eligible to take part in.
3. All research team members (doctors, nurses etc.) have to be appropriately qualified, trained and experienced to carry out the tasks they intend to do for the study.
4. As well as taking part in a trial or other study, being involved in research can also be about working with research teams to decide what to do and how to do it.
5. There are hundreds of active research studies taking place at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust which cover a vast range of conditions or health problems.
6. All studies using NHS patients, staff, data or facilities need approval from the local NHS Research and Development Department.
7. All trials must demonstrate that the benefits are greater than the risk before they begin.
8. Participants can withdraw from research studies at any time without giving a reason and without affecting future care or rights.
9. Taking part in a research study may give you access to treatment or tests which you may not have access to as part of your standard clinical care.
10. Oxford has a rich history in important medical research. Over the years, scientists and doctors in Oxford have discovered the circulation of blood around the body, the use of penicillin to treat infections and, more recently, that a certain type of surgery offers better survival rates for most men with localised prostate cancer.

Contact details

If you would like to know more about what the Research and Development Department do or more information on how research is managed within Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust please contact us on:

Website: <http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/researchers/>

Email: ouhtma@nhs.net

Tel: **01865 572974**

Further Information

If you would like to know more about getting involved with research, information is found on these websites.

www.invo.org.uk

www.NIHR.ac.uk

<http://www.hra.nhs.uk/>

www.lindalliance.org

<http://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/public/get-involved/>

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Clinical Research in Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and you

“Virtually every treatment option available today is the result of active clinical research participation. The input of the public and patients is extremely valuable and can help to shape the future of modern medicine”

What is clinical research?

Clinical research covers a wide range of activities looking at finding out more about health, illness, disease and disability and how these influence the way that health and social care services are provided by the NHS. At its simplest, research involves asking a question; gathering the data to help answer it; and then making sure the answers are made known to those who can act on it. In the NHS, all such work should be designed to benefit patients, and there is an increasing drive to design research with them.

Why is clinical research in the NHS important?

Clinical research in the NHS is aimed at;

- Improving healthcare,
- Getting a better understanding of ill health and patient experience,
- Changing the way healthcare professionals work, and so offering improved care to NHS patients.

One sort of clinical research that is especially important in the NHS is the clinical trial. Trials are done to test treatments (medicines or devices e.g. pacemakers), for particular conditions. This is often done by comparing the standard treatment (treatment that you would usually receive if diagnosed with a condition) against a different or new treatment. Without research and this evidence, people may be given treatments that have no benefit, waste valuable NHS resources, and might even be harmful.

Types of clinical research in the NHS

Research in the NHS includes a wide range of approaches. One example is a clinical trial as mentioned above, which can assess new medicines or medical devices (such as pacemakers for example); another might be a simple study which uses questionnaires or interviews to find out how people think or feel about a particular condition or treatment. All research aims to improve patient care and treatment.

What is the Research and Development Department?

The Research and Development (**R&D**) Department within Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust is based within the Joint Research Office which is a partnership between University of Oxford, Oxford University Hospitals and the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre. This partnership brings together the medical and scientific knowledge of the organisations and promotes a high standard of research in Oxford.

R&D has a role in;

- Promoting and supporting high quality research, providing advice to researchers, and making sure that the research that is conducted is safe,



- Acting as a research sponsor which is the organisation which takes full responsibility for the research including the safety of participants,
- Ensuring the safety of research projects and participants from outset to conclusion.

The **Joint Research Office** also has a Finance and Contracts Team which ensures that;

- Projects are adequately funded,
- No cost falls upon the NHS,
- Contracts are in place ensuring the legal responsibilities of researchers are clearly documented.

What are the safeguards to ensure clinical research is ethical and safe?

- **Research Ethics Committees** – Most research that involves people has to have ethical approval. Ethics committees are made up of experts and members of the public who assess research projects on the rights, safety, dignity and well-being of those who take part.
- **Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)** – If the study uses medicines or a device e.g. a pacemaker for a new purpose, then the study would need approval from the MHRA. They assess whether medicines and devices work and are safe.
- **NHS Research and Development Departments (R&D)** – There are many regulations in the UK to ensure that the rights and safety of participants are protected in research. These regulations oversee important areas such as the use of new medicines, the use of participants' data and donated tissue and the rights of those who may have lost mental capacity (these are people felt not to have the ability to make an informed decision to take part in a research study). The R&D department will make sure that all the relevant organisations have reviewed the study and approvals are in place before any research activity is started. They provide the local '**green light**' for research to take place in your NHS Trust.



Who can take part in a research study?

You can take part in a research study as long as you fit the relevant 'inclusion criteria' for the study. For example you may need to be within a certain age group or have a specific medical condition to take part in a particular research study.

How can I take part?

There are three very different, but very important ways.

- **Study or trial participation:** You can ask your doctor or nurse for more information about the research studies that are being conducted at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. You may be able to join as a patient or if, for example, you are a carer or family member who is not affected by the condition, the research team may welcome your involvement in a study as a 'healthy control'.
- **Study or trial design:** there is growing emphasis within the NHS to involve patients or members of the public in deciding what research should be done, and how it is best carried out. This is often referred to as 'Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)' and is currently being led from within the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, which is a partnership of Oxford University