



Clinical research in

Child health

How to be involved



Child health research in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN) undertakes research in child health throughout Northern Ireland. The NICRN is part of a UK-wide initiative to provide opportunities for patients and clinicians to participate in high-quality clinical research.

The NICRN aims to:

- promote research in child health within Northern Ireland;
- attract clinical trials in child health to Northern Ireland;
- conduct clinical trials across Northern Ireland to the highest standards of quality and safety;
- provide infrastructure to facilitate the start-up of new trials in medicines for children;
- improve access for children to new cutting-edge treatments.

What can the NICRN offer me?

As a patient or carer:

- Information on current and planned research in child health across Northern Ireland.
- Access to the highest standards of clinical care within well-controlled trials of new developments in the diagnosis, treatment and management of disease in children.
- Opportunities to help define the direction of child health research in Northern Ireland.

As a clinical researcher:

- A regionally inclusive approach to clinical trials and other high-quality research in child health.
- Support from a regional coordinating centre.
- Access to skilled, multidisciplinary research staff dedicated specifically to NICRN activity.
- Provision of HSC service support costs from HSC Research and Development division funds.
- Access to national training and education programmes.
- Collaboration opportunities with researchers across nine NICRN clinical interest groups and national networks.
- Liaison with pharma or biotech industry partners.

The NICRN comprises nine regional interest groups, all headed by prominent specialist clinicians with a proven track record in clinical research.



NICRN (Child health)

Areas of interest to NICRN (Child health) include the following:

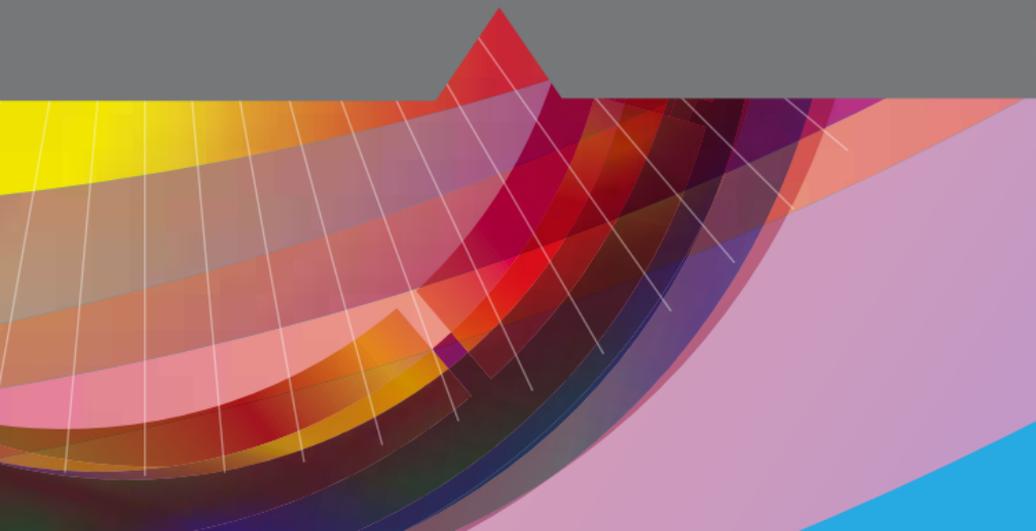
- Neonatal – multiple studies covering non-invasive ventilation of premature infants, iodine supplementation in preterms and bereavement in the setting of a research trial.
- Asthma – studies on acute severe asthma, the genetics of asthma and management of chronic wheezing.
- Adherence to medications – in children with epilepsy, rheumatic diseases and cystic fibrosis.
- Diabetes – natural history and early management of diabetes mellitus.
- Intensive care – studies in pain relief and sedation in the paediatric intensive care unit.

The NICRN

High-quality clinical research is vital if we are to improve the evidence base that underpins the delivery of Health and Social Care. Well-managed and controlled clinical trials make an important contribution to that evidence base and improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of illness and disease.

Successful clinical research depends on the willingness of patients to participate in clinical trials. Patients participating in clinical research can be assured they will receive the best possible standard of clinical care and their safety and wellbeing will be protected at all times.

Clinical trials may be instigated by industry, such as pharmaceutical companies or manufacturers of medical devices. Similarly, trials may be developed and led by hospital or university-based health professionals. In all cases, the aim is to find ways to deliver better treatments for patients. In line with this, the NICRN portfolio consists of both industry-led and investigator-led trials.



Contact us

Patients or clinical researchers wishing to find out more about the work of the NICRN should contact the NICRN coordinating centre (CC). We will try to respond to any enquiries quickly and efficiently and, if appropriate, refer you on to other network staff.

Please feel free to contact us by any of the following means:

NICRN coordinating centre
Room 2007
King Edward Building
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Interest group coordinators

For further information or to contact us, please email:

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Alternatively you can visit:

www.nicrn.hscni.net



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