

Shaping research design and funding

If you decide that you would like to help shape research, these are some of the things that you might be asked to do:

- help select research that is important and relevant
- help researchers design their projects
- help develop understandable information sheets for people taking part in research
- join a research management or advisory group
- train to carry out some of the research (for example interviews)
- help interpret the results of the research
- help make sure the research is reported in understandable ways
- help make sure good research is heard about
- help to decide which research should be funded



Find out more

To find out about healthcare research of interest to you, visit www.ukctg.nihr.ac.uk You'll be able to search for clinical trials nationally and locally.

To find out more about clinical research, visit www.iamresearch.co.uk

To explore opportunities for public involvement in health and social care research in Northern Ireland, visit www.research.hscni.net

Remember, it's OK to ask your doctor, nurse, or healthcare professional about the research opportunities available to you.



Public Health Agency
12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS.
Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate).
www.publichealth.hscni.net

Find us on:



I AM RESEARCH

Every year, thousands of people help us improve healthcare and develop life-saving treatments by taking part in health and social care research.

Be part of the solution

#iamresearch

Improving healthcare and health research

Clinical trials are an essential part of medical research. They help us develop better treatments, which improve healthcare for adults and children. This can lead to real breakthroughs that save lives and improve quality of life.

You may be interested in joining a clinical trial to improve healthcare, or to support medical research in a particular field because you or someone close to you has a specific illness.

Taking an active role in your own care

By taking part in a clinical trial you may feel that you are taking an active role in your healthcare. This may be of benefit to you. On some clinical trials, your condition may be monitored more regularly than with standard care. Do ask your doctor, nurse or healthcare professional what kind of attention you'll receive.

Accessing new treatments/devices

If you have a medical condition, you might think about joining a clinical trial to gain access to a new treatment, or device being tested. However, it is important to keep in mind that the drug trial or research study on a new treatment is only carried out to find if the new option is better than what is currently offered. It may be the same, or it may be worse.

Drugs or devices tested in trials may also not be made available to everyone by the HSC/NHS after the trial ends.



I AM

Aidan

"After being involved in a clinical trial, my life has changed massively – I am fitter, stronger and healthier than ever before in my life. Being involved has given me a far better quality of life. I used to worry about the future – not now. The future is bright and I have hope, which I never had before. Research did not just change my life, it saved my life."



I AM

Gordon

"Research is an exciting journey, with new technologies enabling new discoveries and insights to be made across a broad range of disciplines on an ongoing basis. As a lay person, it has been my privilege over the last 15 years to participate in some small way in that journey."



I AM

Margaret

"As I went through my surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, I realised that all of these treatment decisions were based on research. As my way of giving back for my care and treatment, I have been partnering with researchers for 8 years. It is exciting to be involved, in a small part, in helping to improve and develop treatments for other people diagnosed with cancer. I believe research is part of excellence in health care."