

PHOENIX SURGERY RESEARCH PROTOCOL

BACKGROUND:

Phoenix Health Group has been registered, as a research practice, with the Primary Care Research Network (WeReACH, formally known as the CRN) South West, for a number of years. In recent years, our research activity has gone from strength to strength and our research portfolio has grown significantly. We have formed a dedicated team to process potential research projects.

PRACTICE AIMS:

To be involved in and to promote research:

- For the widespread benefit for patients, both now and in the future.
- To increase knowledge and understanding by investigating the causes and courses of diseases or health problems, and how best to treat them.
- By helping to building a body of evidence that can lead to positive change for future care.

THE RESEARCH TEAM:

The team is consists of:

- Lead GP / Principal Investigator - Dr. Naomi Vernon
- Research Nurse – Helen Lane
- Business Manager – Julia Maclean

The research team meet every week to review potential research projects and to assess progress on projects that are underway. The clinical members of the research team are required to have up to date 'Good Clinical Practice' certification in research.

PRACTICE REGISTRATION

The practice is currently registered with WeReACH in collaboration with Cirencester Health Group. Funding for research comes from the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) and is allocated on a yearly basis. This involves an annual review of the practice's involvement and achievements in their research activities and submission of a yearly application. Funding is allocated depending on the performance of the surgery during the previous year and is dependent on achieving the target of the required amount of active open studies and the target number of recruited patients.

STUDY PROPSALS AND ASSESSMENT

New projects are notified to the project team by WeReACH via email. Each NIHR research project has its own unique CPMS number. The details are compiled into a Project Approval Form by the Research Nurse.

The details include:

- Details of the project
- Project Requirements – including time commitments, effect on the practice, recruitment of participants etc.
- Project Finance – including staffing costs, other costs, fee and potential profits.

The Project Approval Form is shared with the Principal Investigator for consideration and an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) is submitted if deemed to be feasible. For larger, more complex projects, The Project Approval Form is shared with rest of the partners for consideration and to confirm whether or not the practice will express an interest in joining the project.

PROJECT INITIATION

Study teams reply directly to the Research Nurse to confirm receipt of the EOI and to attain further information. Once confirmed that the practice has been accepted onto the project, the research team will allocate tasks and timescales to comply with the project brief.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

The research nurse is required to maintain a database called EDGE, to record all research activities at the practice. EDGE is accessed by WeReACH and used to monitor the practice's progress.

FUTURE RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The practice plans to continue to expand its research activities and to build a stronger research base. Additional office capacity has been identified at the South Cerney branch where there is now a central hub for research activity. The team are planning to expand to include admin support in the coming year.

Helen Lane Research Nurse December 2021