

Research and Development

The Knowledge Centre
Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
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Commercial Research Studies at the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

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Who are we?

The Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) is the 7th largest Mental Health care provider in England. At any one time, we care for ~40,000 people across the two counties.

Trust Services

The Trust has a range of services to help children and adults, including:

- Early Intervention in Psychosis
- IAPT and Wellbeing
- Youth Mental Health Service
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Older People Services
- Alcohol and Drug Services
- Adult Acute Services
- Forensic Services
- Pharmacy
- Community Mental Health Services

A Pharmacy service for research covers the entire Trust and studies are co-ordinated centrally from Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.

Research Profile

We have a growing research profile in conducting national and international studies. Our current involvement in Industry research ranges from Phase II-IV drug trials to observational studies.

Investigators

We have a number of investigators in different services who have conducted clinical trials and are experienced in working with Industry. Additionally, the Trust offers all staff the opportunity to attend in-house training in Trial Management and Principal Investigator skills to boost knowledge and share practices.



Research Support Staff:

All clinical staff members are trained in Good Clinical Practice (updated annually or biannually) and are experienced in conducting commercial and drug trials studies in mental health service users. If requested by the study team, we also operate a pooled staffing structure reporting directly into R&D, so that any annual/sick leave is covered by other experienced and members of staff who have received training in study-specific procedures. Our support staff includes research nurses, clinical studies offers, research assistants and assistant psychologists.

Research Approvals and Set-up

The Trust holds current signed Confidentiality Disclosure Agreements for Industry research with the NIHR.

The NSFT approves Portfolio studies using CSP Module (NIHR Co-ordinated System for Gaining NHS Permission), and aims to give approval within 15 days of a full R&D submission. As of March 2014, our average approval time is **8 days**.

It is Trust policy to use the Industry Costing Template for Commercial Studies and, where possible, the model NIHR Clinical Trial Agreement (mCTA) template. Use of these national templates can reduce study approval times significantly.

Monitoring:

Progress and recruitment is monitored across the Trust on a monthly basis, and any recruitment issues are reported and discussed at a very early stage with the research and supporting clinical teams. Although primary audit responsibilities lie with the sponsor, NSFT R&D may undertake annual site-level audits to ensure adherence to protocol and GCP principles after notifying the sponsor.