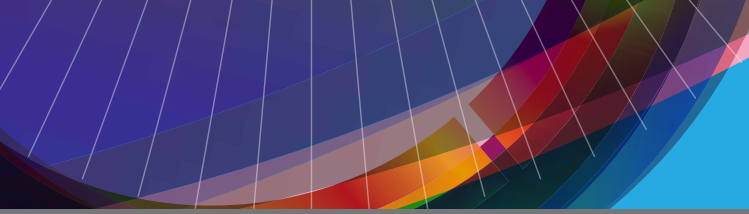




How can industry  
engage with  
the NICRN?



# How can industry engage with the NICRN?

The Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN) was established to support clinical research within Health and Social Care (HSC) organisations and to facilitate the conduct of trials and other well designed studies to the highest national and international standards. The NICRN structure and processes align with networks elsewhere in the UK.

A major focus of the NICRN is enabling the timely and targeted delivery of commercial studies. This is critical to the future of life sciences businesses. The NICRN already has a track record of success in such studies, evidenced by the performance metrics it maintains.

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

The NICRN interest groups are:

Heart disease

Child health

Critical care

Dementia (with a mental health interest group in development)

Diabetes

Primary care

Kidney disease

Respiratory medicine

Stroke

Vision

Oncology studies are supported through our sister network, the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Network (NICTN):

[www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nictc/  
NorthernIrelandCancerTrialsNetwork/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nictc/NorthernIrelandCancerTrialsNetwork/)

The NICRN offers support to industry in the following ways:

- a single communication pathway between industry and clinicians;
- coverage of the entire population of 1.8 million people in Northern Ireland;
- efficient study feasibility and adoption processes within an interactive network and research governance environment;
- consistent costing and contracting processes across the network and HSC Trusts;
- access to skilled, experienced, multidisciplinary research staff to support on-site study delivery;
- rapid start-up times within a streamlined HSC Research and Development (R&D) permissions process;
- excellent record of recruitment to target;
- effective performance management of studies in partnership with industry sponsors.

“We found working with NICRN (Heart disease) excellent, in particular the CVS nurse support. The NICRN (Heart disease) was instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of a complex cardiovascular trial (STREAM), which has involved several levels of care (ambulance, emergency department, coronary care and cath lab). The site recruitment has far surpassed the original target and data quality has also been excellent. The STREAM steering committee and sponsor representative have highly praised the NICRN CVS nurse support, whose work has been hugely valuable. Thanks for this fantastic work!”

*Linda Kelly, Sponsor Representative,  
Boehringer Ingelheim*

# Tools

In line with other UK networks, the NICRN uses a suite of tools that meet the needs of life sciences businesses and help deliver accurate studies effectively and efficiently. These tools are as follows.

## **Commercial costing template**

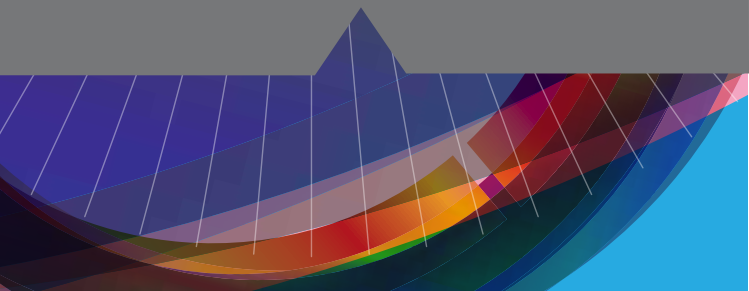
The standard commercial costing template has been adopted by all HSC Trusts. It provides transparency, consistency and predictability on costings across the region.

## **Standard research agreements**

All HSC Trusts support the use of the model clinical trials/clinical investigation agreements developed with input from industry for use in the UK. These agreements are designed to be used 'off the shelf' without further modification. They have been proven to speed up contracting between commercial companies, HSC organisations and universities.

## **Regional monitoring service**

A regional monitoring service is already well established and available across all HSC Trusts if a client wishes to use it. On-site performance management can be provided at an agreed level as required by the sponsor.



# Contact us

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

NICRN coordinating centre

Room 2007

King Edward Building

Royal Victoria Hospital

BHSCT

Grosvenor Road

Belfast BT12 6BA

Tel: 028 9063 6367 / 6365 / 6360 / 6375

For network-wide queries or further information, please email:

[info.nicrn@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:info.nicrn@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

Alternatively you can visit:

[www.nicrn.hscni.net](http://www.nicrn.hscni.net)

Our website includes contact details for specific IGs.



Public Health  
Agency



**DHSSPS**

Department of Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety  
[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Produced by the Public Health Agency, 12–22 Linenhall Street,  
Belfast BT2 8BS.

Tel: 028 9032 1313.

[www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)