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Research & Development

Information for Patients and Visitors

2018

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What is Research?

The term clinical research refers to the research that is done to learn more about human health. It aims to find better ways to prevent and treat disease and is an important way to help improve the care and treatment of people worldwide. To gain more knowledge about illnesses and how the human body works, volunteers can help researchers answer questions about health in studies of an illness.

Studies might involve testing new drugs, vaccines, surgical procedures or even medical devices.

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Why do we do Research?

The development of new medical treatments and cures would not happen without health research. Without research, many diseases that can now be treated would cripple people or result in early death. New drugs, new ways to treat old and new illnesses, and new ways to prevent diseases in people at risk of developing them, can only result from clinical research. Many things that we now take for granted are the result of previous medical studies. For instance, blood pressure pills, vaccines, transplant surgery, and chemotherapy are all the result of research.

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Where does the research come from?

All NHS organisations are expected to participate in and support health research. The research may be sponsored by companies developing new medicines or medical devices, NHS organisations, universities or medical research charities. Clinical research should serve the public interest, which means that research sponsors have to demonstrate that their research serves the interests of society as a whole. They do this by following the UK policy framework for health and social care research. They also have to have a legal basis for any use of personally-identifiable information.

If you are a patient with us, you may be asked by a consultant or approached by a research nurse to see if you would like to take part in a study or you may receive an invitation in the post.

Some research studies just involve surveys and interviews; others may look at the effect of drugs and treatments. You can be reassured that all research will first have been approved by an ethical committee which is independent from the Trust. Taking part is voluntary and you may change your mind at any time.

If you are invited to take part in a research study, you will be given a patient information sheet that is specific to the study and will hopefully answer any questions you have. If not, the Research Team is always available to answer any further questions.

I AM
RESEARCH

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Why should I take part?

The goal of clinical research is to determine if these treatments, prevention and behavior approaches are safe and effective. People take part in clinical trials for many reasons. Healthy volunteers say they take part to help others and to contribute to moving science forwards. People with an illness or disease also take part to help others, but also to possibly receive the newest treatments and to have extra care and attention from clinical staff. Clinical trials offer hope for many people and a chance to help researchers find better treatments for others in the future.

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We all benefit from the new knowledge that is gained in the form of new drugs, vaccines, medical devices and surgeries. However, it is crucial to know that volunteers do not always receive any direct benefits from being in a study. It is not known if the treatment or drug being studied is better, the same, or even worse than what is used now. If this was known, there would be no need for any medical studies.

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Which areas is research taking place in?

Currently we have research taking place in the following areas;

Cancer

Cardiovascular Disease

Stroke

Mental Health

Dermatology

Health Services and Delivery Research

Anaesthesia, Perioperative Medicine and Pain Management

Critical Care

Gastroenterology

Hepatology

Infectious Diseases

Respiratory Disorders

Musculoskeletal

Diabetes and Endocrinology

Children

Maternity

Reproductive Health

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