

# Research at Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

*What does it mean for me?  
A service user guide*



Making a  
**positive**  
difference

# What is research?

Clinical research is about finding out new knowledge that could lead to changes in treatments, policies, or care.

People volunteer to participate in carefully conducted investigations that uncover better ways to treat, prevent, diagnose, and understand human disease. Clinical research includes trials that test new treatments and therapies as well as long-term natural history studies, which provide valuable information about how disease and health progress.

It is considered to be core business for all NHS Trusts, and is enshrined in the NHS Constitution.



# What types of research happen at Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust?

Many people, when they think about clinical research, think about drug or medication trials but that is a very small proportion of what we do. Clinical research can involve a variety of different project methods including questionnaires, focus groups, testing new therapies or physical interventions such as an exercise programme.

Our Clinical Research service works alongside our clinical teams to promote, facilitate and deliver national research studies within the Trust. The aim of the team is to make it easier for NHS staff and service users to get involved in research.

We are always happy to hear from individuals that have an interest in research and want to find out more about taking part in research projects. Our Clinical Research service is made up of nurses, doctors and other professionals.

We host and run a wide variety of different studies relating to mental health, substance misuse, children's health and learning disabilities with significant local expertise in dementia and self-harm and suicide.

We also have a number of 'embedded' researchers, working within clinical services to support the design and delivery of locally-driven research projects. Details of clinical services with researchers embedded within them can be found on our website (details overleaf).

# Why is research important?

Promoting, conducting and using clinical research to improve healthcare is one of the key principles of the NHS. In fact, the Constitution for NHS England (2013) contains a pledge that we will inform patients about research studies in which they may be eligible to participate. The National Institute of Health Research wants patients and carers to feel empowered to ask about research, and to keep research at the top of the NHS England agenda. As a result, research is now core NHS business.

## **Research provides us with a greater insight and enables us to:**

- Develop new treatments and medicines
  - Prevent illnesses
  - Improve quality of life
  - Improve our understanding of medical conditions
  - Understand the emotional and physical support you need if you're living with a medical condition
  - Improve services that are offered here within Derbyshire Healthcare.
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Evidence suggests that healthcare organisations which are research active have higher levels of performance and better patient outcomes.

Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is proud to be a research-active organisation and is dedicated to supporting clinical research and providing service users and colleagues with the opportunity to become involved in high quality research.



## What else do I need to know?

As a user of Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's clinical services, you may be given information on any current research projects which may be of interest to you, so that you can decide whether you would like to take part in them or not. The information provided will be for one study at a time and will usually be sent to you through the post or may be handed to you by your named clinician. It is important to note that all research is voluntary and your decision on whether or not to participate will not affect the care that you receive. You will always be given plenty of time to decide if you wish to become involved in research, and the opportunity to ask questions about the research, and you may withdraw from research at any point if you change your mind about your involvement without giving a reason. This will not affect the care that you are receiving from your care team.

The Research team view health records to help identify which service users may be interested in hearing about new and ongoing research projects. This enables us to offer service users the opportunity to take part. If you wish to find out more about this then please view our privacy policy on the Trust website: <https://www.derbyshirehealthcareft.nhs.uk/privacy-policy>

If you wish to receive a paper copy of the privacy policy then please contact us using the details overleaf.



## **What should I do if I do not want to participate in research?**

It is important to note that if you do not wish to become involved in any of the research projects we contact you about, then you do not have to. Please just discard any information we provide. If you wish to find out any further information on this then please contact us using the details overleaf.



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More information about the team can also be found on our Trust website.

Follow us on Twitter: @DHCFTResearch

**If you would like this information in a different language or format, including Easy Read or BSL, please contact [dhcft.communications@nhs.net](mailto:dhcft.communications@nhs.net)**

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