

Is it a PIC or a research site?

A Health Board/ Trust (eg a hospital clinic) identifies potential patients and provides them with an information pack about a study taking place in a neighbouring Health Board/ Trust.

Health Board/ Trust (hospital clinic) = **PIC**
Neighbouring Health Board/ Trust =

Research site

A GP practice identifies potential participants by checking medical records and sending out information letters = **PIC**

However, if follow-up tests are also undertaken by the GP practice = **Research site**

GP practice identifies potential patients by undertaking a protocol-specified screening blood test following consent. Suitable patients are then randomised at a Health Board/ Trust.

GP practice = **Research site** (performing screening assessments)

Health Board/ Trust = **Research site**

Partner organisations


**National Institute for
Health Research**

Clinical Research Network


NISCHR

Uned | PCU | Permissions
Cydlynau | Co-ordinating
Caniatad | Unit


**NHS
SCOTLAND**

NHS RESEARCH SCOTLAND


**HSC Public Health
Agency**

Contact us

For further guidance please contact the coordinating centre for the lead nation:

For England led CSP studies

w: www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/csp

e: crncc.csp@nihr.ac.uk

If a study is unlikely to be included on the National Institute of Health Research Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) Portfolio, initial advice may be given as well as details of the Lead Nation where applicable

Northern Ireland

e: research.gateway@hscni.net

Scotland

w: www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/nrspcc

e: nhsg.NRSPCC@nhs.net

Wales

w: www.bit.ly/walesnischrpcu

e: nischr.pcu.allwales@wales.nhs.uk

Partner organisations:

NIHR Clinical Research Network

NHS Research Scotland

NISCHR Permissions Co-ordinating Unit

Public Health Agency

Participant Identification Centres (PICS)

All NHS organisations must give NHS permission to host a research study. The principles of good research governance encourages NHS organisations to adapt their processes to reflect their specific role in a given research study. The concept of PICS has been established as part of these proportionate approaches.



What is a PIC?

A PIC is where an organisation:

- identifies participants, largely (but not exclusively) through patient records, for possible participation in studies
- provides information about / or informs patients directly about a study, eg a clinician speaks directly to a patient
- advertises the opportunities to participate in a specific study, eg via posters in waiting rooms

and

- where the research is taking place elsewhere.

An organisation is **not** acting as a PIC when it is responsible for:

- any protocol-specified assessment to determine participant eligibility for a study, eg a screening blood test or x-ray
- the recruitment (informed consent) of participants into a research study
- the delivery of research procedures specified in the research protocol

How do I apply?

To enable NHS organisations to operate proportionate approaches to NHS permissions, researchers are recommended to:

1. Consider the use of PICs at the study design/feasibility stage
2. Approach relevant NHS organisations to discuss their in-principle support to act as a PIC
3. Complete your application via IRAS. SSI forms are not required for organisations acting as PICs. HOWEVER, all activities/resource requirements proposed for PIC organisations must be detailed within the R&D form application:

- answer YES to A73 to reveal the secondary PIC questions

and

- include the contact details and activities of PICs associated with research sites identified in Part C of the R&D form (except where the activity is limited to displaying leaflets or posters only)

PIC activity may only commence once NHS permission is granted by both the research site and the organisation acting as a PIC.

What will be reviewed by the PIC?

Organisations that are considering whether to act as a PIC will primarily rely on the completed study-wide governance review. The local governance review at the organisation acting as a PIC will only consider:

- the resource implications for the PIC site
- if the patient information is clear about who is hosting the research and who will provide compensation for clinical negligence

Is it a PIC or a research site?

A GP practice identifies potential patients and provides them with an information pack about a study taking place in a secondary care setting.

GP practice = **PIC**

Secondary care setting = **Research site**

A NHS dental practice identifies potential patients and provides them with an information pack about a study in the local university.

Dental practice = **PIC**

University = **Non-NHS research site**