

## National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) West Midlands

### What is the NIHR CRN?

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) West Midlands supports patients, the public and health and care organisations across England to participate in research. Doing this helps to advance knowledge and improve care. The CRN comprises 15 Local Clinical Research Networks and 30 Specialties who coordinate and support the delivery of high-quality research. The CRN can help researchers to facilitate their research study, helping them to identify suitable sites, or places to run the study and support them to deliver the study to time and target. The Unit of Academic Primary Care at Warwick Medical School works together with the NIHR CRN West Midlands primary care team.

The CRN provides resources and activities designed to support health and care organisations, staff, patients and service users to be research active, or be able to offer health research studies to their patients. This might include specialist training, information systems to manage and report research, patient and public involvement opportunities and engagement initiatives, and communications expertise.

### How does research reach GP practices and the community ?

Researchers from the Unit of Academic Primary Care are supported by the NIHR CRN West Midlands to deliver their research study. The CRN primary care team makes sure that all of the approvals are in place for research to run safely and ethically. They help support GP practices to



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run studies, often working alongside practice staff, or community staff to do this.

## Who works in the CRN?

The CRN primary care team includes Research Delivery Managers, Research Nurses, Research Facilitators and Administrative staff to support the process. Often, Research Nurses from the CRN will see patients in GP practices, or community settings to explain the research to them and carry out the informed consent process with them, to ensure they fully understand the research. Then, if they wish to volunteer to take part in a study the Research Nurses work with GP practice staff, or community staff to help them participate.

## What happens if I take part in a research study?

Sometimes, being part of a study involves extra blood tests, or investigations. Your blood pressure, height and weight may also be checked. It may mean visiting a GP practice, or other community setting to see a doctor, nurse or other health care professional who is overseeing, or running the study. Research studies sometimes involve taking medication, or they may involve trying out new equipment, or answering survey questions.

## **Watch a video here called “I want to take part in a research study”**

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/patients-carers-and-the-public/i-want-to-take-part-in-a-study.htm>

**Find out more about the CRN West Midlands here :**

[www.local.nihr.ac.uk/wmidlands](http://www.local.nihr.ac.uk/wmidlands)



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