



The UK offers companies system-wide collaborative working, a dynamic regulatory system, active life sciences and charity funding, and increasingly expanding access to rich longitudinal data from the NHS's 65 million patients. Join our unique clinical research and clinical trials ecosystem bringing together our universal NHS, world class universities, and major Government investment in research across the UK.

Rapid access to early phase experimental medicine expertise

With major public investment in research centres and facilities in leading universities and hospitals across the UK, companies can focus on translational research and delivery of early-phase studies. The UK offers companies facilitated introductions and access to the country's leading clinical research experts and therapeutic specialists as well as networks of experienced investigators. Companies also have access to a variety of public and private funding to support collaborative research.

Efficient and effective set up and delivery of clinical trials at scale in the NHS

The UK has a single healthcare system with research delivery arms coordinated across the UK. The UK offers companies facilitated introductions patients across the full spectrum of primary, secondary and specialist care, with free support for early engagement with clinical research expertise and targeted identification of potential study sites. Commercial studies benefit from streamlined study-wide approvals and practical site set-up enabling companies to begin studies quickly, supported by simplified studies can be up and running quickly supported by simplified contracts and negotiation for multi-site trials.



Government commitment to:

Build on the UK's world-leading position in designing and delivering novel and innovative trials.



Government commitment to:

Establish five purpose designed centres dedicated to the delivery of late-phase commercial research.



Largest biomedical pipeline in Europe

The UK has one of the largest development pipelines globally, with the greatest number of products in both preclinical and clinical pipelines in Europe. UK innovation remains strong and reputable, with over 500 new biotechnology-based drugs and 600 innovative pharmaceutical product candidates.

This is attributed to the significant funding the UK invests in early stage and translational science and reflects the high quality of our universities.

A streamlined and forward thinking regulatory system

coordinated working across regulators and competent authorities offers companies alignment and efficient study approvals. A single integrated research application system (IRAS) simplifies the process for gaining ethics and trial approvals.

Companies can engage in early, exploratory discussions through the MHRA Innovation Office, to maximise innovation and speed of approvals, and can use the coordinated scientific advice service from MHRA and NICE.

Rich health data for targeted research

At 65 million people, the UK has a large and diverse population; and a highly rated single healthcare system offering companies in the UK exceptional longitudinal coverage and unique patient identifiers. This extraordinary system enables opportunities for targeted research and implementation.

Our large population of over 130,000 pre-consented patients can be invited to participate in studies based on genotype and phenotype profiles. A Health Data Research Alliance has been established to streamline data access of all major UK health data assets.

Digital Innovation Hubs ensures the safe and responsible use of health-related data at scale for research. Benefit from Government investment in digitally-enabled and AI-enabled clinical research as well facilitating easy patient participation in trials.

Collaborative working with industry

Government agencies, regulators and research charities are working with the life sciences industry to streamline the UK environment for industry research. Partnership of UK Universities and NHS organisations has created a platform for world-leading clinical research, with aspects of clinical research and manufacturing eligible for tax benefits. Strategic Government investment in specific growth areas, such as Cell & Gene Therapy, attracts pioneering companies to the UK.



Government commitment to:

Create a regulatory environment that is fit for the future, keeping pace with innovative and evolving study design and technological developments such as AI.



Government commitment to:

Create a complete package from data curation, access for researchers, skills, and an effective regulatory environment, all the way through to health and social care providers.



Government commitment to:

Continue partnership working with the the Life Sciences Industry strengthen the UK's position as a prime destination for world-class research



875,250 participants
took part in clinical research across
the UK in 2018/19 - the highest number ever



1,523 commercial contract trials
were open and recruiting
participants in the UK last year



100% of NHS Trusts
were involved in recruiting
participants into clinical research



62% reduction in set up times
core package submission to first patient



1 million patients recruited
into Primary Care studies to date



**National Institute for
Health Research**

A record-breaking year for UK research

The NIHR has made clinical research 'business as usual' in the NHS. Its long-term vision for research, tackling obstacles and promoting collaboration between industry, the NHS and academic researchers has propelled the UK into Europe's leader in clinical trials.

2018/19 was a record-breaking year for research, with more studies open than ever before and 875,250 participants taking part in studies across England - the highest since records began and an increase of 140,000 on the previous year - making innovative treatments available readily available to patients.

All NHS Trusts recruited participants into studies, with patients across the expanse of the country.

"Without the NIHR, the UK wouldn't be one of the leading research bases in Europe and the world today, and we would not have the significant presence we do now in the UK,"

James Brook, Head of UK and Ireland Clinical Delivery, IQVIA



HM Government

How we can help

On your investment journey will we connect you into a community of support. We are committed to helping you make the most of the opportunities to use the UK as your gateway to the world.

Contact us today:

lifescience@trade.gov.uk