

## The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in the South West Peninsula

The NIHR is the research partner of the NHS, public health and social care. The South West Peninsula, through its universities and hospitals, hosts key NIHR infrastructure, as well as attracting millions in NIHR grant funding every year.

The NIHR is a complex, devolved organisation which can be confusing. Here's what each part of the local NIHR does, and who it's designed to help.

There is some overlap between the different parts. For example, the Research Design Service and the Clinical Trial Units both offer support for grant applications. The different parts also collaborate and work together. If in doubt, get in touch with the part you feel is most relevant and they will be happy to help.



### NIHR South West Research Design Service (RDS)

A bespoke service to help you design studies and successfully apply for grants. The RDS South West in the Peninsula is hosted by the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, the University of Exeter, the University of Plymouth, and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. It supports researchers to develop applications to the NIHR and other applied health and social care research funders. Whether you're at the beginning of your research design journey or one click away from submitting your funding application, the RDS is here to support you, free of charge. The RDS can help you: develop a research question and start your public involvement consultation; consider the funding programme, build the team and alert organisations; decide on study design, develop methods; write the research proposal; submit the research application; and provide post-award support. RDS advisers can even get involved as full collaborators on projects.

- **Who's it for?** Researchers and clinicians who are developing a research application to national funders of applied health and social care research, especially the NIHR
- **Geography:** The RDS is based in universities and the NHS across the whole of the South West with its main centres in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth
- [www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk)

[@NIHR\\_RDS\\_SouthWest](https://twitter.com/NIHR_RDS_SouthWest)



### NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) South West Peninsula (PenARC)

Applied health research to address the issues facing the health and social care system

PenARC conducts applied health research with its partners and others in the health and care sector, alongside patients and members of the public. Applied health research aims to address the immediate issues facing the health and social care system. They also help bring research evidence into practice and provide training for the local workforce.

- **Who's it for?** Health and social care professionals, researchers, patients and members of the public, commissioners and policymakers, public health, voluntary sector, industry.
- **Geography:** The South West Peninsula: Devon, Cornwall (including the Isles of Scilly) and South Somerset. Its research has local, regional, national and international impact
- [www.arc-swp.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.arc-swp.nihr.ac.uk)

[@Peninsula\\_ARC](https://twitter.com/Peninsula_ARC)



### NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) South West Peninsula

Helping you deliver NIHR portfolio research in the NHS, public health and social care settings

The CRN South West Peninsula, hosted by the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, provides the infrastructure, support and funding that drives high-quality research in our region across the health and care system.

We offer opportunities for patients, members of the public and organisations to take part in research.

We support NIHR portfolio research in NHS, public health and social care settings, such as, universities, schools, care homes, hospices, prisons and clinical settings. Our research covers over 30 specialties. To be eligible for portfolio inclusion your study must meet the definition of research, have ethical approval and full funding from open national competition.

Our Study Support Service offers advice at every stage, from study feasibility, help with setting up in different research settings and access to the staff or resources to support research delivery. Research teams and healthcare staff can also access free training and the public can find out about local opportunities to **Be Part of Research**.

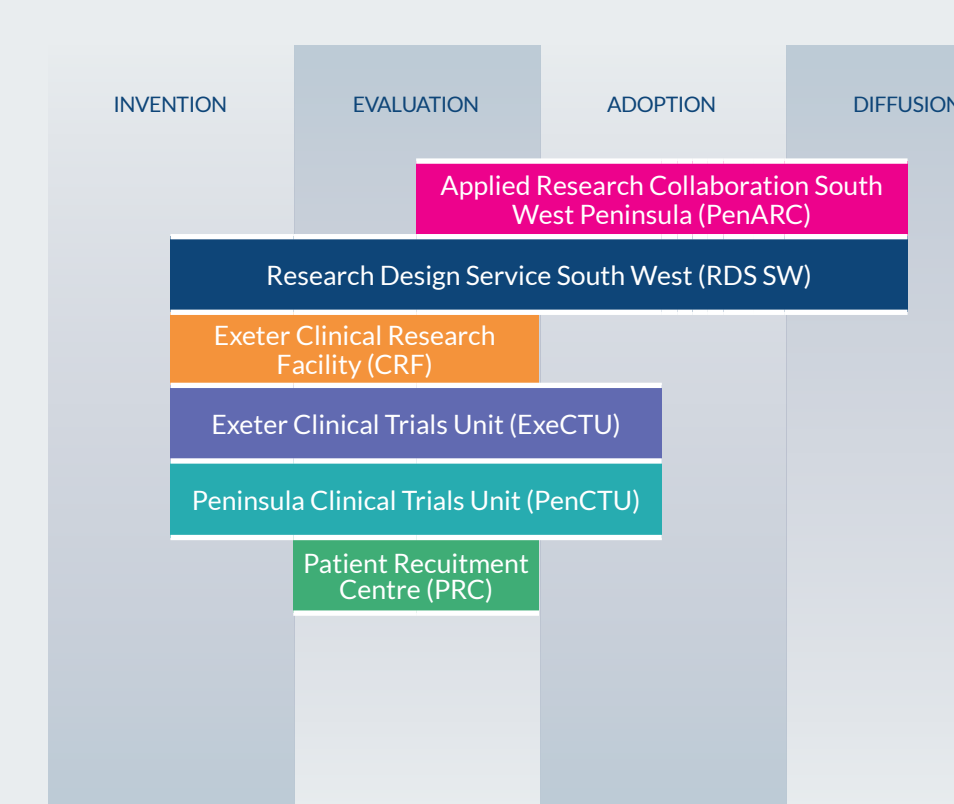
- **Who's it for?** Researchers and clinicians who are conducting research in the NHS, public health or social care settings, healthcare staff, early career researchers, patients and the public who are interested in getting involved in research
- **Geography:** Cornwall, Devon and Somerset
- [www.local.nihr.ac.uk/lcrn/south-west-peninsula/](http://www.local.nihr.ac.uk/lcrn/south-west-peninsula/)

[@NIHRSW](https://twitter.com/NIHRSW)



### The research pipeline for the South West Peninsula

How each part of the local NIHR fits into the research pipeline, from discovery and invention, to diffusion and widespread implementation.

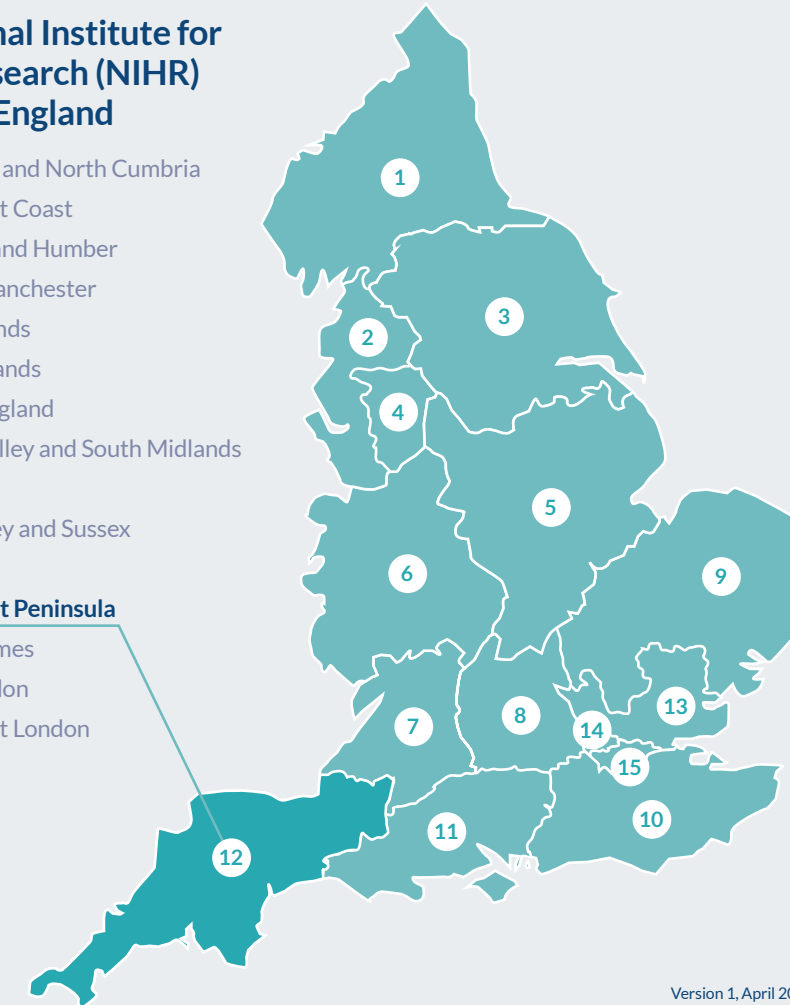


## The NIHR in the South West Peninsula



## The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) regions in England

1. North East and North Cumbria
2. North West Coast
3. Yorkshire and Humber
4. Greater Manchester
5. East Midlands
6. West Midlands
7. West of England
8. Thames Valley and South Midlands
9. Eastern
10. Kent, Surrey and Sussex
11. Wessex
12. South West Peninsula
13. North Thames
14. South London
15. North West London



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## UKCRC-Registered Clinical Trials Units in the South West Peninsula

UKCRC-registered Clinical Trials Units (CTUs) are academic specialist trials units with a specific remit to design, conduct, analyse and publish high-quality clinical trials and other well-designed studies. Registered CTUs have been assessed against key criteria by an independent international panel of experts in clinical trials research. Registration status is awarded to Units which demonstrate the capability to centrally co-ordinate multi-centre clinical trials (i.e. having overall responsibility for the design, development, recruitment, data management, publicity and analysis of a portfolio of trials), and that have established robust systems to ensure conduct and delivery of clinical trials to the highest quality standards.

In the South West Peninsula, there are two UKCRC-registered CTUs: the Peninsula CTU, and the Exeter Clinical Trials Unit.



## Peninsula Clinical Trials Unit

Addressing health and social care challenges through the design, development and delivery of quality-assured research

Maintaining full UKCRC registration status since 2007, PenCTU has collaborated in a large number of clinical trials and other types of study, in a wide range of therapeutic areas, including international regulated drug trials, device trials, trials of complex interventions, cluster randomised trials, pilot/feasibility studies and observational cohort studies, in primary and secondary care settings.

We aim to be the investigator's 'right hand', working with you from design to delivery. Collaborate with our trialists to design your study and develop your funding application. Task our dedicated trial managers with project-management of your study from set-up to completion. Allow our highly skilled developers to create intuitive data capture systems and rely on our data managers to maximise the integrity of your study data. Statisticians involved at the design stage will contribute throughout the project duration and will analyse data, assist with interpretation and help disseminate research findings.

Wherever possible we will tailor our support to your specific requirements in order to deliver efficient and high quality projects. Please visit our website for more details.

- **Who's it for?** Experienced investigators and early career researchers alike
- **Geography:** Based on the University of Plymouth's North Campus, co-located with the South West RDS and CRN South West Peninsula, with whom we work very closely. We collaborate with investigators based locally, nationally and internationally.
- [www.plymouth.ac.uk/penctu](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/penctu)



## Exeter Clinical Trials Unit (ExeCTU)

Collaborating with ambitious researchers on the design and delivery of high-quality and efficient clinical trials

We work in partnership with researchers and clinicians across the trial lifecycle: refining research questions, optimising study design, developing funding applications, trial set-up and delivery, analysis, write up and dissemination. The team has extensive experience in trials methodology, study design, database programming, trial and data management, monitoring, statistical programming, analysis and reporting. We have experts in health economics, process evaluation and qualitative research and work closely with NIHR colleagues in the Exeter CRF, the RDS South West and PenARC and other expert methodologists, including in Patient and Public Involvement.

Our trial portfolio includes dementia, mental health, orthopaedics, diabetes, emergency medicine and Covid-19, supported by funding from the NIHR, UKRI, Horizon2020, large charities and others. Studies include regulated drug trials, surgical, device and apps trials and trials of complex interventions, locally in the South West, nationally and internationally.

- **Who's it for:** Researchers looking to answer important healthcare questions by developing high-quality studies and who would like to collaborate with an experienced team to design and deliver the study
- **Geography:** Exeter-based with track record of successful collaborations with local, national and international leading research teams
- [www.exeter.ac.uk/ctu/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/ctu/)
- [@ExeterCTU](https://twitter.com/ExeterCTU)



## NIHR Exeter Clinical Research Facility (Exeter CRF)

The Exeter CRF aims to improve patient care by increasing understanding of the causes of disease, and improving diagnosis and treatment.

It supports and conducts clinical research studies and is based in a purpose-built unit within the Research Innovation Learning & Development (RILD) Building at the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust. It has highly trained 'research dedicated' nurses, scientists, doctors and support staff. Our outstanding research facilities include bespoke wards and consulting rooms, sample handling laboratories and specialist equipment for investigating exercise, physiology and metabolism.

Its collaborative and centralised approach maximises efficiency, minimises bureaucracy and ensures the patient voice is central in clinical research

- **Who's it for?** New and established researchers seeking infrastructure support at all stages of their clinical research projects, and patients and members of the public who may be interested in becoming involved with local/national research.
- **Geography:** Based in Exeter, its expanding research portfolio has both national and international impact.
- [www.exetercrfnihr.org/](http://www.exetercrfnihr.org/)
- [@ExeterNihl](https://twitter.com/ExeterNihl)



## NIHR Patient Recruitment Centre (PRC): Exeter

Dedicated to setting up and delivering late phase commercial clinical trials in the NHS at pace and scale

We are one of five PRCs that work collaboratively across the country, through an innovative national franchise-like model, to make it easier and quicker to deliver commercial research in the UK.

PRC Exeter is located and hosted by the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust.

### Who's it for?

- **Patients** - Our service is designed with the research participant at the heart of what we do. Our Centre is always welcoming and accessible. The expert and dedicated team deliver a personalised medical experience for all research participants.
- **Life Sciences industry** - The PRC has the capacity to deliver large scale, late-phase commercial clinical research. We have a proven track record for the delivery of commercial research. Our established network of stakeholders and collaborators enable us to deliver an excellent service for our commercial partners.
- **Local Principal Investigators and Regional Stakeholders** - Partnerships and collaborations across the health sector in our region are a key feature of our operating model. These connections, which include primary, secondary, community and social care organisations, extend our reach far beyond Exeter. This means that we can provide more opportunities for more people to access cutting edge treatments and therapies not yet widely available through the NHS.
- [www.local.nihr.ac.uk/prc/exeter](http://www.local.nihr.ac.uk/prc/exeter)
- [@PRCExeter](https://twitter.com/PRCExeter)

