

Job Description

Nursing Commercial Research Fellow	
Grade	Clinical ACT6 £74,203 pro rata per annum
Department	Division of Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care, School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health
Overall Purpose	
The NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) is launching a development fellowship scheme to build nursing leadership in commercial research across primary care and wider care settings. Fellows will gain skills in commercial research delivery, academic development, strategic systems working, and cross-sector collaboration. A total of 11 Fellows will be appointed, hosted across SPCR member departments plus Newcastle and Birmingham. Fellows will join a supportive cohort with mentorship, supervision, shared learning, and access to SPCR training. The fellowships will be 0.5FTE from 1st October 2026 and will run to 31st March 2086 and fellows will be paid equivalent to current NHS/academic salary (pro rata). PURPOSE OF THE ROLE To support national growth, capacity, and capability in commercial research across primary care and wider care settings by developing: an understanding of commercial research delivery; academic skills; partnerships with stakeholders; and insight into how nursing roles support commercial research and can contribute to the UK being a leading global destination for commercial research. The role is underpinned by a commitment to advancing research equity and accessibility. A core focus of the role is to increase inclusion and diversity in research by developing a strategic understanding of the regional population's health and care needs. Fellows are specifically tasked with proactively identifying and working with underserved populations who do not currently access either healthcare or health and care research, and the health/research organisations who serve them, in addition to life science partners, thereby ensuring that the growth of commercial research across primary care and wider settings is inclusive and addresses disparities in access. Important: This is a development fellowship - Fellows will not be employed as research nurses or deliver a specific study but will develop strategic and academic capabilities.	
About the Team	
This post will be administered by The Centre for Primary Care and Health Services Research (CPCHSR) at The University of Manchester, which is a leading research centre for primary care research, and a founder member of the prestigious NIHR School for Primary Care Research. We have a truly multidisciplinary staff and very active patient and public involvement partners, working together on research in quality and safety, health policy, politics and organisations, long-term conditions, and research methodology. The CPCHSR works closely with the Division of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work in the School of Health Sciences, and the post holder will have opportunities to link with active research groups in the Division including Digital Health and Social Care, and Long-Term Conditions.	

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The NIHR Greater Manchester Commercial Research Delivery Centre (GM CRDC), hosted at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust with links to Northern Care Alliance as a key partner, will be working with partners across primary, secondary and community settings to increase the number and diversity of participants involved in commercial research. The aim is to also increase capacity and capability to deliver commercial research across our partners and the wider community.

Key Accountabilities

Main Responsibilities

Developing Skills & Expertise:

- Build knowledge of commercial research delivery, regulatory pathways, commercial study set-up, and operational design
- Develop insight into how nursing and nursing associate roles can support commercial research across primary care and wider care settings
- Develop an understanding of the health and care needs of the regional population to proactively identify and work with underserved populations who do not currently access either healthcare or health and care research
- Engage in training in academic skills including governance, appraisal, writing, dissemination, and stakeholder engagement.

Engagement & Collaboration

- Engage with nursing teams across primary care, general practice, wider care settings, and secondary care and support coordination of commercial research delivery across the sector
- Work alongside existing regional infrastructure to enhance equitable access to commercial research opportunities for underserved populations through neighbourhood-based and community-embedded delivery models including
 1. NIHR Commercial Research Delivery Centres
 2. Regional Research Delivery Network
 3. Greater Manchester Inclusive Research Network (GM IRN)
 4. Manchester Inclusive Research Hub/Neighbourhood delivery model
- Work collaboratively with RDN Health & Care Directors (NMAHPs), NIHR Research Delivery Network, Commercial Research Delivery Centres, ICS/ICBs, industry partners, NIHR Nursing & Midwifery Office, and academic departments
- Work closely with the Primary Care GP and Pharmacist Commercial Research Fellows to enhance programme deliverables
- Attend relevant events to network with regional and national partners, life science organisations, and the wider research system.

Strategic Leadership

- Act as a key link between academic teams and external stakeholders.
- Identify barriers, enablers, and solutions for commercial research in wider care settings
- Support the strategic coordination and development of inclusive commercial research delivery across primary care and community settings
- Share learning and support the spread of commercial research activity

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- Support the strategic development of the SPCR Primary Care Commercial Research Fellowship programme
- Contribute to national initiatives underpinning the drive to increase commercial research in primary care
- Motivate and inspire teams by being an effective leader and acting as a role model for others
- Act as an ambassador for research

Cohort Participation

- Attend SPCR training, cohort meetings, and cross-site events
- Travel locally, regionally, and nationally as required
- Participate in reflective learning and peer support

Research / Quality Improvement Project

- Fellows will complete a short research or Quality Improvement (QI) project with support from their host department. A written impact statement is required at the end of the Fellowship.

Person Specification

Eligibility

- Any NMC-registered nurse working in primary care is eligible
- Experience in NIHR portfolio research delivery is essential

Essential Requirements

- NMC-registered nurse working in primary care
- NIHR portfolio research delivery experience
- Interest in research, service improvement, or innovation
- Exceptional organisational, communication, and problem-solving skills
- Demonstrable leadership skills
- Ability to negotiate and influence
- Ability to work independently and across organisational boundaries
- Willingness to travel.

Desirable Requirements

- Experience of delivering NIHR portfolio commercial trials
- Understanding of UK research governance
- Experience in audits, service evaluations, QI, or research
- Knowledge of commercial research or digital/health tech

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Experience in multi-disciplinary collaboration.	
Knowledge	
	- Experience of delivering NIHR portfolio commercial trials - Understanding of UK research governance - Experience in audits, service evaluations, QI, or research - Knowledge of commercial research or digital/health tech - Experience in multi-disciplinary collaboration.
Experience	
	Experience in NIHR portfolio research delivery is essential
Skills	
	- Exceptional organisational, communication, and problem-solving skills - Demonstrable leadership skills - Ability to negotiate and influence - Ability to work independently and across organisational boundaries
Education	
	- Any NMC-registered nurse working in primary care is eligible - Experience in NIHR portfolio research delivery is essential
Other	
	Willingness to travel
Key Behaviours	
One University: A 'One University' approach, whereby we break down silos and work collaboratively towards furthering the University's strategic goals, vision and values. Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom: Support the University's commitment to securing and actively promoting the importance of free speech and academic freedom within our community. Service Excellence: Committed to prioritising service excellence and high performance to deliver great people-centred experiences. Agility: Demonstrate a commitment to agility and continuous improvement by embracing change, championing innovation, and being flexible and forward thinking to adapt. Sustainability: A sustainable approach that safeguards the University of the future by championing environmental practices, advancing digital capability, and supporting financial stability and philanthropic	

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initiatives.

Inclusion: Support the University's ambition to create an inclusive place to work where every person matters, demonstrating a commitment to non-discriminatory conduct and respect for others, and fostering a University where people feel deeply connected to each other, to Manchester, and to the wider world.

Social Responsibility: Promote and champion the University's social responsibility ambitions to advance social inclusion, prosperous communities, better health, and cultural engagement.

People Leadership: Demonstrates effective leadership by empowering, motivating, and developing teams to achieve high performance. Builds a collaborative and inclusive work environment and provides clear direction, support, and feedback.