

NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) Pharmacy Commercial Research Fellow Role

Post: Part-time Pharmacy Commercial Research Fellow, 0.2 FTE (one day per week)

Duration: Fixed term up to 18 months, ending by 31st December 2027

Salary: Academic clinical/research scale based on current salary (pro rata, capped at NHS banding 8b, or equivalent £74,896)

This NIHR SPCR-supported fellowship provides ringfenced time for UK-registered pharmacy professionals to develop expertise in developing pathways to support commercial research delivery and building collaborations that increase the quantity of commercial clinical trials in out-of-hospital settings. You will develop strong connections with national community pharmacy organisations, including the Independent Pharmacies Association (IPA), National Pharmacy Association (NPA), and Company Chemists' Association (CCA). You will also work closely with the NIHR Research Delivery Network, NIHR Commercial Research Delivery Centres, Clinical Trials Units, ICS/ICB partners, Primary Care Networks, and industry sponsors.

Successful candidates will be hosted at one of the nine SPCR member departments and have access to NIHR SPCR training resources and a supportive peer group. Fellows will gain valuable experience in commercial research, enhancing their career development. The role will include travel between sites and attendance at cohort meetings.

Role Purpose

To support the growth of commercial research in general practice and community pharmacy by developing expertise in commercial study delivery and fostering collaboration between pharmacy professionals, healthcare teams, industry partners, and research networks.

Main Responsibilities

- Develop expertise in commercial research delivery within community pharmacy and general practice settings.
- Demonstrate evidence of engagement with pharmacy teams in general practice and community pharmacy to stimulate commercial research activity.

- Form and enhance partnerships with key stakeholders, including NIHR Research Delivery Network, NIHR Commercial Research Delivery Centres, NIHR HealthTech Research Centres, Clinical Trials Units, Health Innovation Networks, commercial partners, Department of Health and Social Care, Biomedical Research Centres, NHS providers, and collaborators and colleagues in other departments.
- Act as a key link between academic departments and stakeholders for commercial research development.
- Share knowledge and promote adoption and roll-out of commercial research in pharmacy settings.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications and Experience

Essential

- Registered Pharmacy Professional with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
- Experience working in community or primary care pharmacy in the UK.
- Understanding of UK health research regulatory requirements (GCP, Ethics, HRA, MHRA).
- Strong organisational and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (written and verbal).

Desirable

- Experience delivering NIHR Portfolio studies or pharmacy-based research.
- Knowledge of the commercial research landscape.
- Track record of undertaking research or quality improvement projects.