

Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network

Supporting the delivery of clinical research

This factsheet summarises the type of research that DeNDRoN supports; how DeNDRoN can support the delivery of research; and how this support can be accessed. For information about getting help to develop new research, please see the leaflet 'Developing new clinical research'. For further information, please visit www.dendron.org.uk

What is DeNDRoN?

The Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network (DeNDRoN) is a UK-wide initiative that aims to improve the speed, quality and integration of research in dementias, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, Huntington's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases, resulting in improvements in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for patients.

DeNDRoN facilitates the development and conduct of clinical trials and other well-designed studies by:

- coordinating focused, effective investment in NHS research infrastructure to ensure that quality research, funded by both commercial and non-commercial organisations, receives the support to succeed
- building on the strengths already present in the UK as well as increasing general capacity in the field of dementia and neurodegeneration
- promoting collaboration between patients, carers, researchers, clinicians, academics, NHS Trusts, funders and industry, to support the integrated development of new research

DeNDRoN is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) as part of the UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN).

How does DeNDRoN support the delivery of clinical research?

In England, DeNDRoN has established seven Local Research Networks covering 50 per cent of the population. In addition, supplementary resources have been invested in several additional centres to provide further support for studies of motor neurone disease and Huntington's disease.

In Wales, the Clinical Research Collaboration Cymru has established a Research Practitioner Network (100 per cent coverage). In Northern Ireland, the R&D Office has established a Clinical Research Network (100 per cent coverage).

Through this network, DeNDRoN can:

- co-ordinate the recruitment of eligible patients for research studies
- employ and second research nurses and clinical trials officers to support the efficient set-up and delivery of studies
- seek to involve interested clinicians who may not have previously participated in clinical research
- provide support and training, to a recognised standard, for teams conducting clinical research
- help with identifying and recruiting investigator sites for participation in studies
- offer support with obtaining local ethical approval, R&D approval and arrangement of costings and contracts
- co-ordinate multi-centre sites within the network and monitor recruitment
- build on existing research infrastructure
- publicise ongoing trials
- performance-manage studies at local sites

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What type of research does DeNDRoN support?

DeNDRoN supports the conduct of randomised controlled trials and other well-designed studies, including those for prevention, diagnosis and treatment. This includes fully-funded commercial and non-commercial studies that affect the patient or carer, that are conducted for patient benefit and that address key issues arising from the disease.

DeNDRoN can facilitate:

- observational and interventional studies
- single centre and multi-centre research

How does a study qualify for DeNDRoN support?

DeNDRoN can only support fully funded studies adopted into the UKCRN Portfolio. It is expected that all high quality research that involves NHS patients and/or resources, and that is funded by the NIHR and its partners, will be included in the UKCRN Portfolio. Studies funded by industry or non-NIHR partners will be adopted into the portfolio, based upon study feasibility in the UK and network capability.

All NIHR partner funded studies must be fully funded in open, national competition with high quality peer review, clear value to the NHS and strategic direction for the research. All non-NIHR partner funded trials must also be able to demonstrate full funding and adequate peer review.

For a list of NIHR partners and eligibility criteria for inclusion in the Portfolio, please visit www.nihr.ac.uk

How do studies get adopted into the Portfolio?

DeNDRoN UK Coordinating Centre coordinates the adoption of studies in the DeNDRoN disease areas. A DeNDRoN Portfolio Submission Form and study protocol must be sent to the Coordinating Centre at the point of funding, for review by an adoption panel.

How do local investigators access DeNDRoN support?

Resources at a site and regional level are accessed through the appropriate Local Research Networks in England, NEURODEM Cymru in Wales and the Recognised Research Group for Neuroscience in Northern Ireland.

Local DeNDRoN resources may only be used to support studies in the Portfolio, and Local Research Networks may select which studies in the Portfolio to support.

Once investigators are identified, they should contact their Local Research Network Manager at the earliest opportunity to discuss what support they need from DeNDRoN resources. Where the UK Coordinating Centre is involved in identifying investigators and sites on behalf of sponsors, this will happen automatically.

For details of your local DeNDRoN network, please visit: www.dendron.org.uk

DeNDRoN Portfolio Submission Forms are available at www.dendron.org.uk

To discuss study eligibility, adoption and support, please contact the Newcastle office of the DeNDRoN UK Coordinating Centre at:

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