



Research and Development



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What is research?

- Research in healthcare provides new knowledge about how to treat and care for patients with different illnesses.
- Most research in healthcare still involves patients and can also include carers and healthy volunteers.

The importance of research in healthcare

- Advances in healthcare are often made by using the results of research. This can lead to new and improved ways of treating patients or delivering care.

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (UH Bristol) – A teaching and research Trust

- UH Bristol has three main aims: to provide excellent care to patients, to carry out high quality research and to train healthcare professionals such as doctors and nurses to high standards. This is all done in partnership with its local partner universities – the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England.
- In UH Bristol a wide range of health professionals carry out healthcare research in a variety of settings. For example, some research takes place in laboratories, examining blood and tissue, whilst other research will be carried out on the ward or in the outpatient department.

Good research practice

- UHBristol is committed to undertaking research to a high standard. Before it can start, research must be approved by a Research Ethics Committee and UHBristol Research and Development Department.
- The Research Ethics Committee reviews all research which involves patients to ensure that the dignity, rights and well being of patients are protected. The Research and Development Department ensures that research is carried out to the standards and rules described in the Department of Health's Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care (2nd Edition 2005).

Getting Involved

- Whilst under the care of UHBristol you may be invited to take part in some research.
- You must be given enough information and time for you to decide whether or not you want to take part.
- If you do not want to take part, your care will not be affected in any way.
- If you do want to take part, you can change your mind at any time without your care being affected.

What to expect – your rights

If you are invited to take part in some research you will usually be given an information sheet explaining the following:

- What the research is.
- Why it is needed.
- What will be expected of you if you participate.
- The potential risks and benefits to you.
- Compensation arrangements if there is a research related injury.
- Anticipated expenses and reimbursement.
- How your identity will be protected.
- How information about you will be kept anonymous.
- Who will have access to the information collected.

You should ask as many questions as you want before deciding whether or not to take part.

Informed consent

- If you decide to take part in a research project you will usually be asked to sign a consent form stating that you are happy to be involved.
- You will be given a detailed information sheet before you sign consent. You will be allowed to talk to your friends, relatives and doctor about the research before you agree to take part.
- Very occasionally it is in the public interest to carry out research using information held in medical notes without obtaining the patients' consent. This will only happen if it is not feasible to contact everyone to gain consent and if there is no other practical option. This type of research is always approved by a special group (National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care) before it is done.
- Information used for research is usually anonymised so that no one can identify an individual from the information. Exceptions are only allowed in very special circumstances.

Remember!

- You do not have to agree to take part in any research. If you decide not to take part, it will not affect the rest of your care.
- If you agree to take part and then change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any time.

For further information contact:

Research and Development Department

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Internet website: <http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/research.html>

For access to other patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:

www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-visitors-and-carers/patient-information.html

Hospital Switchboard: 0117 923 0000



Minicom: 0117 934 9869



www.uhbristol.nhs.uk



For an Interpreter or Signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in Large Print, Braille, Audio, or



Email, please call the Patient Information Service:
0117 342 3728 / 3725

