

Herts and West Essex ICB Training Hub Research Forum 2025: **Facilitating Research in Primary Care**

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*Luton, Mid, South and West Essex and Herts Valley
Primary and Community Care Team*

Who are the *Luton, Mid, South and West Essex and Herts Valley Primary and Community Care Team?*



We are a team of **research nurses and clinical research practitioners** – we help support the **delivery of clinical research** in a variety of settings.

Our aim is to ensure that research is accessible for all.

Our Geography

- Coastal
- Urban
- Rural
- Diversity
- Underserved communities
- Elderly

Lots of groups who may benefit from taking part in research – desirable demographics for study teams.

Check your own demographics using search functions on EMIS/SystemOne, or the Fingertips website

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/general-practice>



The Importance of Research in Primary Care

- Access to new treatments, tests or services
- Opportunities for patients to feel they can contribute
- Understanding illness in early phases / risk factors / prevalence data
- Upskilling and development
- Better care

> [J Eval Clin Pract.](#) 2020 Feb;26(1):203-208. doi: 10.1111/jep.13118. Epub 2019 Feb 19.

Patients admitted to more research-active hospitals have more confidence in staff and are better informed about their condition and medication: Results from a retrospective cross-sectional study

[Leon Jonker](#)¹, [Stacey Jayne Fisher](#)¹, [Dave Dagnan](#)¹

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 30784152 DOI: [10.1111/jep.13118](#)

What support can the LEH team offer?

- Experienced clinical research delivery staff
- Advice and guidance
- Supporting with study activities: informed consent, study appointments, bloods and other clinical measurements where possible
- Finance and reimbursement queries



How we Promote Studies

- Direct email to practices
- Advertised on the EoE Regional Research Delivery Network (RRDN) website

East of England Primary Care – Studies

<https://sites.google.com/nihr.ac.uk/primarycareeastofengland/studies>

Our direct email:
mse.lehprimarycareresearch@nhs.net

Expressing an Interest (EOI) in a Study

When the study information is circulated, it will specify how **EOIs** are being received. This will mostly involve **completing an EOI form**.

Completing the **EOI form does not commit you to taking part** in the study at this point **nor guarantee** your site will be selected.

Questions **assessing feasibility** (e.g. resources, number of patients with the relevant condition, how you plan to recruit etc.)

The LEH team can help with your EOI form queries.

Types of Study: PIC and Recruiting



Participant Identification Centre (PIC)

If GP practice is a PIC:

- The surgery would **identify eligible patients** for the study via a database search (E.g. SystmOne, EMIS).
- You would then **send invites** to potentially eligible patients identified via the search (E.g. by letter or texts). The study team will advise and provide approved materials.
- The activities, such as consenting, assessments and interventions, will be carried out by the study team.

Recruiting Studies

If GP practice takes part in a recruiting study:

- **More involvement.**
- ***Research activity*** may include: **consenting** participants, seeing participants for **study-specific appointments**, and **conducting tests** for the study.

The LEH Team will try to support with these activities, to make the process as simple as possible for both the site and participants.

Research Engagement

Clinical trial recruitment challenges



Approximately 80% of clinical trials are **delayed or closed** because of problems with recruitment.



9 out of 10 trials require the original timeline to be **doubled** in order to meet enrollment goals



11% of research sites fail to enroll a **single** patient



Research Engagement

Research Promotion Schemes:

- Be Part of Research.
- Join Dementia Research

Ways to Promote Research in the Practice:

- Posters and leaflets in waiting areas
- Add information to your website
- PPG meetings (patient engagement)
- PCN meetings (staff engagement)

