

HRA Approval Animation

Here at the Health Research Authority, we protect the interests of patients and the public in Health and Social Care Research.

We provide assurance that health research is safe, legal and ethical.

We work with others to create clear and simple processes for assessing research proposals and we set standards for responsible research, helping to build public confidence and improve the nations health.

Researchers used to be faced with a complex regulatory system. Everyone agreed we needed a new approach, so we developed HRA Approval in consultation with others.

HRA Approval is now used for all study types in the NHS in England, and we're working across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to introduce consistent approaches across the UK.

HRA Approval brings together the assessment of legal compliance, which was previously undertaken locally at each NHS organisation, and the ethics review.

This innovative new approach makes it simpler and quicker to set up studies. The assessment and Research Ethics Committee opinion is now integrated and only one application is needed. It's clarified the roles of everyone involved and improved the quality and consistency of research set up.

Our staff are experts at reviewing study proposals. We help hundreds of research projects every month get underway, straightforward or complex. NHS staff can now rely on assurances from the HRA and don't need to do checks themselves. This means they can focus on getting the research set up and running.

HRA approval ensures that health research is safe, legal and ethical, meaning evidence is generated to create better care for patients.

HRA Approval continues to evolve and we value your feedback to ensure our work benefits the whole community.

Work with us to make the UK a great place to do research.