

Medicines for Children Research Network: *Study feasibility*


National Institute for
Health Research



What is a feasibility?

The Medicines for Children Research Network (MCRN) helps sponsors of research such as commercial companies and academic study teams to conduct feasibility assessments for forthcoming paediatric clinical studies. This is done to:

- Provide information to assist with protocol development (mainly for academic studies)
- Help identify sites interested in being involved

How does it work?

The MCRN alerts investigators to studies that they may be interested in conducting locally. Sponsors typically provide the MCRN Coordinating Centre with study information, which is then reviewed by relevant clinical experts and if deemed compatible with UK practice, circulated to potential investigators via the Local Research Networks.

If the study is of interest, investigators are asked to give an “expression of interest”, with appropriate contact details and an initial estimation of patient numbers. An expression of interest does not constitute a commitment to future involvement, but should only be given if investigators and other site staff are sure they have sufficient time to participate in the study. **Timelines for the return of expressions of interest can be quite short as sponsors (especially companies) work on strict schedules - typically 7-14 days.**

Expressions of interest are reviewed by sponsors and:

1. For commercial research, potential investigators are asked to sign company-specific confidentiality agreements (CDA)
2. A full study protocol is circulated for review by the investigator
3. Additional feasibility information is collected using sometimes lengthy questionnaires (if commercial) and again timelines can be short for return of this information
4. Sites are then selected using this information and sponsors will then begin the process of site set up

One thing to bear in mind is that for commercial studies, competition for sites can be intense and may be global, and so not all sites may be selected .

Where can I get further information?

For further information on how the MCRN supports paediatric research, please speak to your LRN Manager Sarah Rickard (sarah.rickard@cmmc.nhs.uk).

If you are contacted directly by any companies who want to conduct a paediatric study in the UK, the MCRN would be very grateful if you could please pass details to your Network Manager as we may be able to provide support for the study