



NPC Research team

Strategy 2025-2030

Welcome

At Northumbria Primary Care (NPC), we are dedicated to providing high-quality, patient-centred care across our network of GP practices.

As a primary care organisation which is fortunate to be part of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, we bring together expertise, innovation, and resources to enhance primary care services for our communities and patients.

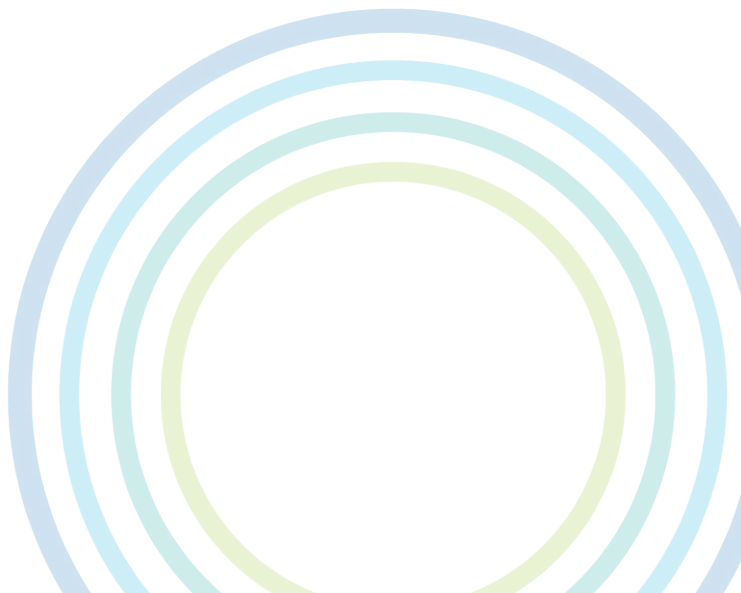
The research team at NPC offers practices and patients the opportunity to participate in ground-breaking research that helps shape the future of primary care.

By integrating research into everyday primary care, we ensure our patients benefit from the latest medical advancements, treatments, and best practices, helping to improve healthcare outcomes locally and nationally.

This strategy details NPC's promise to integrate research into routine primary care, now and in the future, in order to achieve better results for our patients, staff, and communities.

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A message from our **Managing director**

"It is with great excitement we see the publication of the NPC research strategy, I wish to thank Justine and her team for all their efforts.

As a Biomedical scientist by trade, research has always been something that has interested and excited me, particularly in healthcare. It has been great to watch our research activities in NPC grow alongside the organisation over the last 10 years. Seeing the team develop under Justine's leadership, unwavering commitment, passion and impressive network has been one of the highlights of our NPC journey. Often scale and resource are the limiting factor to research taking place in primary care, but once established it is evident many organisations wish to work with us to improve our knowledge of diagnosis, disease processes and innovative treatment options.

It is great to see such a bold commitment to research and genomic advancements in the 2025 NHS 10 Year Plan. I have every confidence our research department are well positioned to maximise this opportunity and will continue to grow and thrive for years to come. I look forward to seeing the benefits this brings to our patients and local communities."

David Hedgcock, Managing director



About us

NPC recognises the critical importance of research to drive future medical advances, to bring benefits to both our patients and region. Enabling prevention of ill-health, earlier diagnosis, more effective treatments, better outcomes and faster recovery.

We are proud to have supported patients to participate in broad spectrum research, all from the comfort of their normal practice. Whether testing new medicines and devices, completing simple questionnaires and surveys or studies trialling new medications, NPC patients are playing their part in shaping the future of primary care management.

To ensure that research findings are effectively communicated, we commit to informing patients of study results and implementing any clinically relevant changes to patient management based on these outcomes.

We actively support research in multiple speciality areas, with current involvement in studies involving; Depression, Parkinsons, Dementia, Cancer, Asthma, COPD, Eczema, Shingles, Heart Failure and Stroke medicine. (*)

Our research team works closely with a number of research organisations including the NENC RRDN, AGE Research Group, the Regional Commercial Research delivery centre (CRDC) and Health innovation North East.

*correct September 2025

Our aim:

Our mission is to deliver high-quality, inclusive, and accessible research that directly supports and strengthens primary care.

We are dedicated to translating evidence-based ideas into everyday practice to improve patient outcomes, enhance continuity of care, and support community health.

Through strong partnerships and collaboration, we strive to be a trusted collaborator in primary

care. We strive to develop the capacity and capability for primary care research within NPC, improving access for patients and staff alike.

We will make research integral to every practice by developing the necessary resources, education, collaborations and infrastructure.

Research testimonial

"The AGE Research Group has a long-standing partnership with the Northumbria Primary Care (NPC) research team. This partnership has been instrumental in recruiting local participants into our research studies such as MASS Lifecourse and the Acipimox trial and demonstrates the value of collaboration between primary care and academic research.

NPC's recent growth opens exciting opportunities to develop inclusive recruitment strategies, strengthen community involvement, and ensure research benefits are felt across the region. Together, we are creating more opportunities for local people to shape and take part in research that improves healthcare for all."

Alignment to the NPC clinical strategy

At Northumbria Primary Care we offer GP practices and patients the opportunity to participate in groundbreaking health and care research that helps shape the future of primary care.

By integrating research into everyday practice, we ensure our patients benefit from the latest medical advancements, treatments, and best practices, helping to improve healthcare outcomes locally and nationally.

Our research and development strategy sits alongside the Northumbria Primary Care clinical strategy:

Patient access

We will ensure our patients have access to appropriate health research from their own practice, with all empowered to become involved.

Equitable care

Research at NPC is accessible to all patients with the team ensuring this is individualised and appropriate.

Sustainable services

Our research supports and develops systems and technological advances to ensure patients have access to the highest quality of care now and in the future.

Long-term condition management and prevention

NPC staff and patients will be involved in shaping best evidence-based long-term condition management and preventative care

Governance

Oversight of the NPC research team is provided, internally, by the NPC senior leadership team with deep dive reports and tri-annual updates being provided to NPC board of directors. Study processes follows NPC research team Standard Operating Procedures for study onboarding with oversight from clinical director.

- The NPC research and development strategy will be overseen by the NPC senior leadership team and NPC board of directors.
- Streamlined and transparent ethical approval and research governance processes.
- Governance structures are aligned with Regional Research Delivery Network protocols.
- Adherence to national regulatory standards set by bodies such as the Health Research Authority (HRA) and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).
- Robust risk management frameworks in place to identify, monitor, and address potential issues in research and innovation activities.
- Oversight of non-clinical innovation projects to ensure they support operational effectiveness and long-term sustainability within primary care settings.

Research team

“The NPC research team was developed to enable our practices to take part in research studies without it impacting their day to day workload. We enable all NPC patients to have the opportunity to take part in high quality research relating to their long-term conditions through their own practice.

We work independently but also in collaboration with the Regional Research Delivery Network, local hospital trusts, industry partners and other healthcare providers to facilitate the delivery of research across a wide range of clinical areas . We have a strong record of recruitment to multiple NIHR portfolio research studies, ranging from early-phase clinical trials to large-scale population health projects.



The past 18 months has been a massive period of growth for us and we are looking forward to the future opportunities that will arise both for NPC research and our patient population.

By embedding a culture of continuous learning and evidence-based practice, we are committed to shaping the future of healthcare and delivering tangible benefits to our patients .”

Objectives

Increase the opportunity for patients to take part in primary care research studies through an independent primary care research infrastructure.

Increase participation in number of clinical trials and overall patient recruitment.

Improve collaborations with patients, research networks and academic institutions.

Increase funding, both commercial and non-commercial in order to sustain and develop our research potential.

Promote NPC as a research active organisation and, in turn, raise its profile and strengthen reputation.



Contact us:

www.northumbriapriarycare.co.uk/research-at-NPC