HTA
CTIMP
Recruitment
SAE
Randomisation
Logs
Feasibility
C&C
REC
GCP
PIS
Protocol Deviation
CRF
Eligibility
Screening
PI
LPMS
SIV
Archiving
LIP
Version Control
Site File
MHRA
IRAS
HCRW
Monitoring
Patient Pathway
Informed Consent

Ymchwil Iechyd a Gofal Cymru
Health and Care Research Wales

Clinical Research: Putting the pieces together

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I arrived in clinical research a confident competent healthcare professional. I knew the language of healthcare, I could see the whole picture. Suddenly I found myself hearing a new language and the clear picture became obscured by opaque acronyms and ciphers. To help with the transition to the role, I looked to the literature to learn about the challenges and barriers experienced by others and benefit from their experiences.

'Our role is so diverse – it is not just recruiting patients. There are follow-ups, collecting data for the CRFs, maintaining site files, knowing about the agencies, regulatory bodies, protocols, consent'

'I have become part of a group of highly skilled and competent professionals'

'I only realise now, after several years working as a clinical research nurse, that I really hadn't grasped the true extent of its complexity, or the positive impact it could have on patients and the public'

'It combines all the things that I enjoy; law, ethics, clinical care and working in complete partnership with research participants'

'role transition': a time when a research nurse experiences a loss of role confidence while acquiring new skills, knowledge and competence

'As with most situations requiring adaptability, it is time to draw upon existing transferable skills, while keenly learning new ones as well'

' persistence through this initial transition period is well worth it.'

'I have learnt many new things which help me be a better clinician, such as in-depth knowledge of protocols that enhance patients' safety when they are participating in studies'

'It is completely different to ward nursing but if you fancy a challenge and a new learning experience then go for it! It can be really rewarding knowing you're making a difference'

'… when I first went into research 4 years ago, it was difficult to adapt to being a research nurse but once I got used to it, it was easy to embrace the role'

To support me through the role transition, my manager used the analogy of a jigsaw puzzle; to consider each element of the role as part of the bigger picture and to add a piece at a time. Each time I added to my knowledge and experience, the picture became clearer, bringing a sense of accomplishment, skill and satisfaction. The delivery of high quality studies in my department is a result of good teamwork, and this is something that I am proud to be part of.

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