

## Why do I need to get involved?

We want as many people as possible to get involved, make their voices heard and help us remind HSC professionals that research matters to patients. Support the 'OK to ask' campaign by:

- asking your HSC professional about clinical research for you or someone you care for
- contacting us by email at [ok2ask@hscni.net](mailto:ok2ask@hscni.net) and telling us:
  - that you asked for information
  - what response you received
  - about your experience of taking part in research
  - any additional comments you have
- following updates on Twitter [@publichealthni](https://twitter.com/publichealthni)
- using #HSCok2ask when Tweeting
- following updates on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/publichealthagency](https://www.facebook.com/publichealthagency)



## Find out more

To find out more about clinical research, please visit the useful links below. These provide more information about what clinical research is and how you can be involved.

### [www.pha.site/HSCok2ask](http://www.pha.site/HSCok2ask)

Information about the 'OK to ask' campaign, or scan this QR code



### [www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/can-help/patients-carers-public/](http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/can-help/patients-carers-public/)

Information about clinical research and how to get involved

### [www.nicrn.hscni.net](http://www.nicrn.hscni.net)

Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network

### [www.nictu.hscni.net](http://www.nictu.hscni.net)

Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Unit

### [www.qub.ac.uk/nictc](http://www.qub.ac.uk/nictc)

NI Cancer Trials Network

### [www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/](http://www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/)

Join Dementia Research is a national service that enables you to register your interest in taking part in research in dementia

### [www.research.hscni.net](http://www.research.hscni.net)

HSC Research and Development Division, Public Health Agency, the main funding office for HSC research in Northern Ireland

### [www.invo.org.uk](http://www.invo.org.uk)

INVOLVE, a national advisory group that supports greater public involvement in public health and social care research





What is clinical research?

Who takes part?

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Who and what do I ask?

Why do I need to get involved?

## What is clinical research?

Research is part of the core work of Health and Social Care (HSC). HSC aims to provide care based on the best available evidence, therefore it is important to inform patients of research studies in which they may be able to participate. This gives people better access to the potential benefits of taking part in research studies including clinical trials.

HSC professionals use research studies to compare current treatments with potentially better ones, so we can keep improving the care we offer to HSC patients.



## Who takes part?

People who take part in research studies often feel they are playing an active role in their own healthcare and helping others by assisting in identifying the best treatments.

In the last five years in Northern Ireland, more than 25,000 HSC patients have chosen to take part in clinical trials and other research studies. Thanks to those people, we are continually learning more about how to deal with a range of conditions and making real breakthroughs that will improve thousands of lives.

**This year, you could help us do even more if you remember it's 'OK to ask'.**



## How do I get involved?

In many cases, HSC professionals will tell patients about research, but we also need people to ask about it and keep research at the top of the HSC agenda.

In a recent consumer poll, only 21% of patients and the public said they would feel confident asking their doctor about research opportunities. This is a very low number. That is why, during the coming year, HSC is promoting the message that **it's OK to ask about clinical research.**

## Who and what do I ask?

If you have a condition and are undergoing treatment, we would like you to ask your HSC care professional about clinical trials or other research studies, and whether any may be right for you.

We would like those people who do ask for information to let us know that they did, along with what responses they received and any other comments or suggestions for improvements.

