



NHS

Blood and Transplant

Introduction to the Transfusion Research Network

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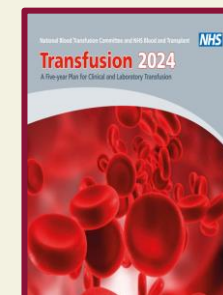
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Introduction & Background

- Transfusion 2024 highlighted need for research and innovation as there is a direct link to better patient outcomes
- Few hospitals are active in transfusion research, leading to prolonged research timelines
- Geographical areas of the UK with the highest disease burden have the lowest numbers of patients participating in research
- Covid-19 pandemic showed great response to large scale collaborative research in the RECOVERY/REMAP-CAP trials
- Need a group that can support and collaborate with transfusion research, also to disseminate and implement research findings
- Needs a multidisciplinary approach with strong PPI involvement

Strategic Case: Drivers

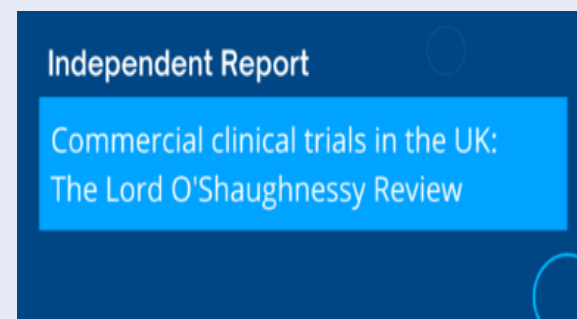
The Transfusion Research Network aligns closely the priorities in our NHSBT Strategy and with wider NHS strategy



- UK geographies with the highest burden of disease also have the lowest number of patients taking part in research.
- We want every community to take the opportunities to get involved – from those in rural settings, to ethnic minorities, who have traditionally been under-served by research.
- We need to work with these groups to ensure they feel confident and comfortable to participate.



- Research-active Trusts boost outcomes for patients
- There is large regional variation in research activity.
- Smaller and rural hospitals must also be encouraged to become more research active
- Participation in research is linked with better morale among staff and improved retention and recruitment.



- Many trials are only conducted within a few sites within England
- Each new transfusion trial needs to set up a new network of participating sites.
- This takes time, effort and means that research is usually performed at a small number of tertiary institutions and thus results are less generalisable to the whole UK population.



- A forum where patients, carers and clinicians set research priorities together
- Key priorities for Transfusion research published in 2019
- To date none of these questions have been fully addressed

What are we trying to achieve and why?

Objective	Outcome
Develop a transfusion research network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the profile of transfusion in hospitals• Collaboration around innovation and data sharing• Develop and mentor both medical and non-medical research experts• Dissemination of research findings• Encourage uptake of evidence and promote change in practice
Increase the number and geographical reach of research active hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speed up and improve the efficiency of transfusion trials by enabling more hospitals to be research-active• Improved ability to recruit to, and deliver, larger and more inclusive trials• Improve the accessibility and geographical spread of data collection
Better informed care and outcomes for all patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate discussion to prioritise the most urgent research questions identified by clinicians, patients and the public• Improve the accessibility for all hospitals to participate in research to help improve participation• Alignment of research activity with other bodies• Avoid duplicated effort and waste
Increase the involvement of Patients and the Public in transfusion research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research prioritisation informed by patient needs• Improve conversations about research between clinicians and patients• Increased research profile with the public, especially among disadvantaged or marginalised groups

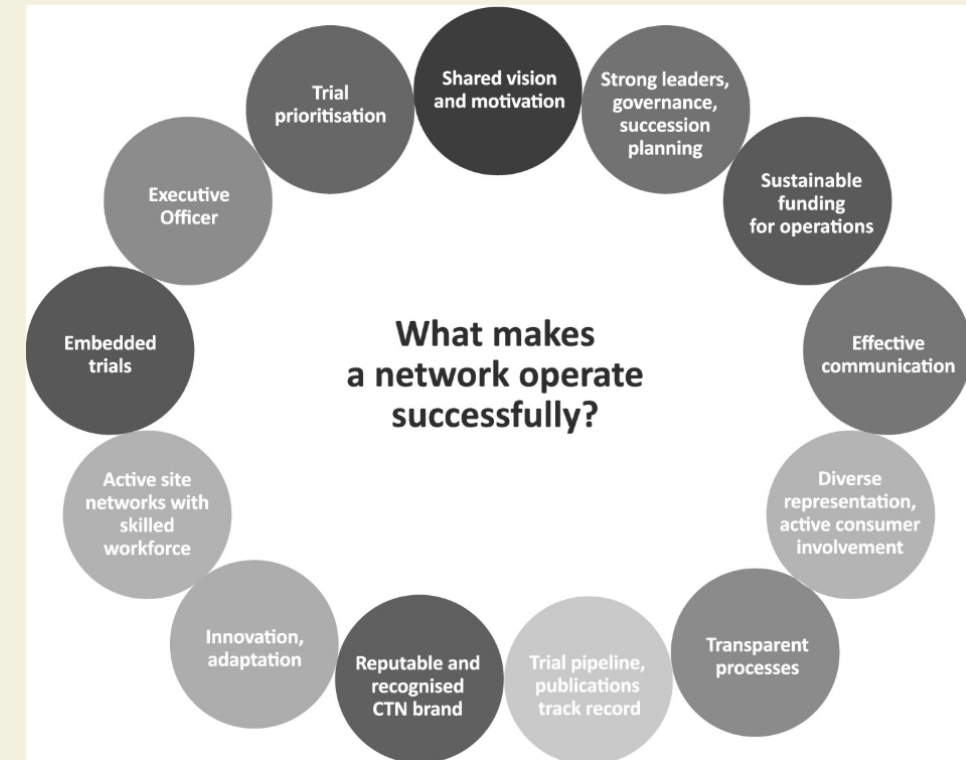
Existing Research Networks

- UKRDN – UK Research Delivery Networks (NIHR)
- UK Dementia Trials Network (NIHR) - connects patients to specific dementia trials
- CIRN – Cardiothoracic Interdisciplinary Research Network (UK)
- HaemSTAR (UK)
- RECOVERY Collaborative group
- RTTQA – Radiotherapy Trials Quality Assurance Group (UK)
- PREDICT – Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative (AUS/NZ)



Learning

- Learn from successes of other research networks
 - Initial survey to determine starting point & capacity
 - Bring together a wide variety of healthcare professionals to become members
 - Build capacity of members to perform research
 - Involve early career researchers
 - Lobbying to create protected research time in all clinical and non-clinical areas
 - External communication of research network successes



Next Steps for the TRN

- Complete a survey to determine the barriers to performing research & publish the results
- Create opportunities for funding of protected time, especially in the setup of clinical trials
- Network with the larger medical communities who may be interested in collaborating in research, for example:
 - Obstetrics
 - Surgery
 - Emergency medicine
 - Haematology
- Facilitate better communication between research teams and frontline staff
- Share research opportunities more widely among all healthcare professionals working in transfusion
- Creation of a PPIE resource for staff to ensure the patient voice is heard during the entire research process

Any Questions?

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