**What is trial registration?**

Registering your trial is a first step in committing to research transparency. Its key aim is to ensure that all healthcare decisions are informed by all of the available evidence, thus, overcoming publication bias and selective reporting. Registration provides opportunities for collaboration and reduces duplication of research efforts; it also improves awareness of trials for clinicians, researchers, patients and the public.

Certain countries mandate the prospective registration of trials and a large number of funding agencies and official bodies strongly recommend it (see WHO on <http://www.who.int/ictrp/trial_reg/en/> and HRA on <http://www.hra.nhs.uk/resources/during-and-after-your-study/transparency-registration-and-publication>).

A growing number of medical journals insist on registration of clinical trials before they will consider the submission of a paper about a study protocol and/or results. The registration record is also expected to include results dissemination plans and a data sharing statement (see [ICMJE](http://www.icmje.org/news-and-editorials/data_sharing_june_2017.pdf)).

For the purposes of registration, a clinical trial is any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes.

For a trial to be registered, it must be submitted to one of the [registries in the WHO Registry Network](http://www.who.int/entity/ictrp/network/primary/en/index.html).

**What is ISRCTN?**

The ISRCTN registry is a WHO-adopted registry that accepts all clinical research studies, whether proposed, ongoing or completed. It provides content validation and curation and the unique identification number necessary for publication. All study records in the database are freely accessible and searchable via <http://www.isrctn.com/>

**Benefits of registering with ISRCTN:**

You can:

* Register any study design at any time – we accept prospective and retrospective registration
* Benefit from editorial help – expert editors will advise you and update your study at key milestones
* Bring your research to a wider audience – records include plain English summaries and appear on the WHO and UKCTG portal
* Share all aspects of your study – records can include data sharing plans and results
* The costs of ISRCTN registration are met by the Department of Health in England for eligible studies [supported by the NIHR Clinical Research Network](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/study-support-service/eligibility-for-nihr-support/)

**How do I apply for ISRCTN registration?**

**For studies supported by the NIHR Clinical Research Network**

The NIHR’s Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS), which maintains a study record for all the Clinical Research Network Portfolio studies, includes a facility to apply for trial registration in the ISRCTN registry. Further details to help you make this application are available on the [NIHR website ISRCTN registration page](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-and-impact/nihr-clinical-research-network-portfolio/isrctn-registration.htm).

Once you have applied, defined elements of the study information shared with the ISRCTN team, who review the record for content and accuracy. A member of the ISRCTN editorial team will be in touch in order to complete the registration process and once you have provided any missing data items, the study is registered.

If your study meets the eligibility criteria, there is no need to complete an application for trial registration directly with ISRCTN

**For studies not eligible for support from the NIHR Clinical Research Network**

If your study does not meet the eligibility criteria, you may still register with ISRCTN. This can be done either via application through the Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS) or by applying directly via [the ISRCTN Registry website](http://www.isrctn.com/). The total cost for registration is £220 + VAT.

**Top tips for registration:**

* In order to check whether you have successfully applied for ISRCTN registration via CPMS, please contact a member of the NIHR Portfolio team at supportmystudy@nihr.ac.uk, or contact ISRCTN directly at info@isrctn.com
* The ISRCTN registry is sent the contact information of the study coordinator as included in the CPMS study record. Please ensure that this person is able to provide information about the study so that we can obtain all of the information we need to ensure your study record meets the requirements for trial registration.
* In order to ensure that your study is listed as prospectively registered, ensure to apply for ISRCTN registration well before the start of recruitment. Your study will only be registered once it has been sent to the ISRCTN Registry and all of the required information has been obtained and the study details are publically available on ISRCTN.

**If you have any further questions about registering your study with ISRCTN or about trial registration in general, please email us at** **info@isrctn.com** **and we would be happy to help.**