

What is the NIHR CLAHRC Greater Manchester?

We are a partnership between providers and commissioners from the NHS, industry and the third sector, as well as clinical and research staff from the University of Manchester. We aim to improve the health of people in Greater Manchester through carrying out research **and** putting it into practice.

We know that lots of research about ‘what works’ doesn’t get put into practice.

We are here to change that:

- **By doing research in participatory ways – involving those who will use the research from the start of the research process.**

We also know that lots of attempts to put research into practice, and to change individual, team and organisation behaviour, don’t succeed.

We are here to change that:

- **By putting research into practice and learning from that process – so that these lessons can be applied more widely.**

We focus on using evidence in practice because of the potential for improvement in healthcare provision and the health of people in Greater Manchester. New relationships are developed as a result, which can be built upon for further research and improvement.

Programmes of work

We have three themes of work: **patient-centred care**, **primary care** and **community services**. Each theme comprises short and medium-term projects in high priority areas agreed with our partners.

Patient-centred care

Patients tell us they prefer to be looked after as a person with problems, rather than with a collection of different conditions. The projects in this theme are all about helping providers of services look after the whole person to avoid fragmented, uncoordinated care episodes that deal with one problem at a time.

Our projects include:

- Helping people with severe mental illness achieve better physical health
- Helping people with long term physical conditions to cope with associated symptoms such as depression and anxiety
- Early detection of complications of diabetes by opticians
- Improving longer term care for people following a stroke
- Better delivery of evidence based care to people with schizophrenia
- Supporting patients to make decisions about taking medicines

Primary care

In partnership with local primary care practitioners and commissioners we will ensure that the provision of primary care services in Greater Manchester is based upon the best available evidence (about 'what works') and will put into practice proven service innovations, improving health for people with cardiovascular disease and learning about how to do more of this.

Our projects include:

- Improving access to primary care services (in partnership with the Greater Manchester CCGs Service Transformation Team)
- Improvement in care for people with cardiovascular disease, spreading innovations that may include:
 - GM-HFIT: An audit and education approach to support primary care to identify and manage patients with heart failure
 - IMPAKT™: A tool to identify and support the management of patients with early stage Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in primary care
 - Support for self-monitoring of blood pressure: Enable practices and patients to implement NICE guidance and to include patients as partners in the process

Community services

This theme will build relationships and create new networks of community service providers. We will put into practice locally relevant research evidence in the areas of wound care, end-of-life services and the community assessment of patients with long-term conditions. This will lead to opportunities and partnerships for new research being developed.

Our projects include:

- Mapping current wound care provision and practice
- Building networks for community provision of wound care and implementing proven treatments
- Evaluating current end-of-life care provision and making improvements for patient benefit
- Enhancing carers' skills, knowledge and confidence in end-of-life care
- Developing and testing long-term conditions assessment tools in practice

How do we work?

Projects are carried out by staff from partner organisations (e.g. GPs and community nurses) working as part of teams with CLAHRC GM staff, including researchers from the University of Manchester and project management and improvement specialists from the NHS. These teams use a common approach to carrying out research, changing practice and showing the difference that it makes. All staff involved are provided with opportunities to develop their own skills in ways relevant to their needs.

How are we funded?

We are funded by the NHS National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), with NHS and other partners providing matched funding in cash and in kind (usually staff time). NIHR funding is conditional on obtaining matched funding.

We have secured the maximum available funding from the NIHR: £10million over five years from January 2014, as a result of promises of matched funding from a range of organisations, including primary care and some CCGs in Greater Manchester. 60% of this matched funding is staff time in kind.

Haven't we already got a CLAHRC?

Greater Manchester has had funding for a CLAHRC since October 2008, which ends in December 2013.

Please visit <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/> for more information.

What can you do?

We are now beginning to make detailed plans for our work by engaging with our partners and agreeing priorities that will make a difference for patients. If you are interested in working with us on any of our projects please email clahrc@srft.nhs.uk.

How do we fit in?

We work in partnership with other organisations, including:

The Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) where we work with the mental health, cardiovascular, human development and population health domains to support applied health research and improvement.

The Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) which has a programme of work focused on improving cardiovascular health. Our work will help inform their approach and we will work with them to support and evaluate the spread of innovation in primary care.

The Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA) which promotes and shares knowledge of best practice to improve the quality of healthcare. Our work will inform 'best practice' and we will work in partnership with them in areas of common interest.

The **NIHR CLAHRC Greater Manchester** is a collaboration of providers and commissioners from the NHS, industry, the third sector and the University of Manchester and is part of the National Institute for Health Research

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