Department of Health & Social Care

Requirement for use of the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT) and the unmodifiable existing model Non-Commercial Agreement (mNCA) and Organisation Information Document (OID)

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Introduction

UK Clinical Research Delivery (UKCRD) is a cross-sector, programme that brings together delivery partners and key stakeholders to achieve the common aim of creating a faster, more efficient, more accessible and more innovative clinical research delivery system – placing the UK as a world leader in clinical trials and getting treatments and other interventions to patients and participants more speedily.

One of the key priorities for the UK Clinical Research Delivery (UKCRD) is to streamline and reform the set-up and delivery of clinical trials through digitalisation. We have heard that R&D staff would welcome the opportunity to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy to free up workforce capacity to deliver on clinical research.

Progress has been made to address study set-up delays, but we know there is still more to do for the UK to remain in step with global competition to be an attractive place for investment and to create a more reliable and predictable research environment.

In response to this, a Study Set-Up Plan was announced in April, led by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on behalf of the four UK nations through the UKCRD programme, to rapidly address delays affecting clinical research. The work of the Study Set-Up Plan will be looking closely at both commercial and non-commercial studies.

Policy Update for NIHR funded and RDN Portfolio studies for Non-commercial research

Note: We are working closely with system partners across the devolved nations to align these improvements.

1. **Requirement for use of the UK Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT)**

Sites taking part in non-commercial research are reminded that the attributions in the authorised SoECAT, submitted as part of the study documentation for study approval, cannot be modified at local level.

When developing the Study Set-Up plan, a source of delay was identified with the current process for use of the unmodified UK Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT) in

non-commercial research projects. The SoECAT process supports non-commercial research studies across the four UK nations. The primary purpose of the tool is to assist researchers in identifying site-level study activities as early as possible during the study planning phase. The standardised process ensures that these activities are accurately attributed according to the principles of [attributing the costs of health and social care research and development (AcoRD) at the time an application is](#) submitted for research funding through to submission for study approval.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) are reinforcing that a SoECAT **must** be included where required for the study by the SOECAT process as part of an application for research funding and study approval for the following non-commercial studies:

A. Studies applying for NIHR funding
B. Studies applying for inclusion on the NIHR RDN Portfolio (and thereby service support costs and/or Excess Treatment Costs);

As per current practice, the SoECAT must be generated using the approved online SoECAT process. This requires authorisation from an AcoRD specialist for the version submitted to the funder, the version finalised prior to IRAS submission and for each subsequent amendment. Any study changes can only be incorporated by the study representative and re-authorised by an AcoRD specialist.

2. Requirement for use of the UK Non-Commercial Agreement (mNCA) and Organisation Information Document (OID)

The Health Research Authority (HRA) and the Devolved Administrations have for many years published a UK model Non-Commercial Agreement and Organisation Information Document for use by sponsors and sites taking part in non-commercial work. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) expects UK sponsors and sites to use the existing templateshttps://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/help/hlptemplatesfor.aspx, without modification, for studies on the NIHR RDN Portfolio. Work will continue to enable an aligned position for all global sponsors.

DHSC has updated the [Eligibility Criteria for NIHR Research Delivery Network Support and the Terms and Conditions for NIHR Research Delivery Network Support](#) (ahead of further updates later this year) to clarify the position on the SoECAT, mNCA and OID use. In addition, the NIHR has updated the [guidance for research funders](#).

DHSC and NIHR would like to thank the research community for their efforts in reducing set-up time for research and hope that the clarity provided here helps to avoid unnecessary delays in site set-up, freeing up valuable capacity across the workforce.