

Information about research for adult patients and their relatives

Research and Development Department



**Maidstone Hospital,
Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9QQ**

**The Tunbridge Wells Hospital
Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN12 4CQ**

Local People – Local Research

Research facts

Did you know that ...

- Over 1,000 patients take part in clinical trials in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust each year
- Patients who have an interest in research can work with consultants in designing research projects which are then carried out within the Trust
- More than 630,000 NHS patients in England took part in clinical research studies last year

Why should I get involved with research?

- To have the opportunity to shape future research, both locally and nationally
- To have the opportunity to gain access to the latest drugs and treatments whilst on a trial
- To help widen clinical knowledge of diseases and treatments
- To get a better understanding of your condition and possible treatments

Being involved in research is not just about testing new medicines; there are lots of **different types of research** you can become involved in.

Remember: Participating in research is totally voluntary. Your care and treatment will not be affected if you choose not to take part.

What types of research are there?

- Drug trials – to assess how new drugs can improve your quality of life
- Questionnaires – to seek your views and experiences of treatments
- New surgical procedures – to help health professionals gain knowledge of the best surgical techniques

Who will ask me to participate in a research trial?

You may be asked to participate in a study by a number of people, such as your GP, a clinic nurse, a hospital consultant, a therapist or a trial research nurse.

You may be asked before you come into hospital or whilst you are an inpatient or an outpatient here. You may be contacted after you have been discharged.

Ask your GP or your clinical team about what research may be relevant to you.

REMEMBER – It's OK TO ASK

“No matter how complicated the research or how brilliant the researcher, patients and the public always offer unique, invaluable insights. Their advice when designing, implementing and evaluating research invariably makes studies more effective, more credible and often more cost effective.”

Professor Dame Sally C. Davies, Director General of Research and Development Department of Health

Volunteer Patient Research Ambassador

In order to enlighten patients and carers about research, the Trust has appointed a Volunteer Patient Research Ambassador, Frances Mossie.

Frances' role is to support patients' understanding and involvement in research.

Research has impacted on Frances' life in a very rewarding way through her work experience and her personal health experience.

The role of Volunteer Patient Research Ambassador in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust is one of the first to be adopted in England and Frances has the full co-operation of the Trust and the National Institute of Health Research.



If you would like an informal chat with Frances about becoming involved in research, please contact:

frances.mossie@nhs.net

Telephone: 07702338929



mtwpatientresearchambassador

If you would like to know more about working alongside hospital staff to design and set up research trials or if you are interested in participating in a trial, please let us know.

Today's research is tomorrow's treatment

MTW NHS Trust is committed to making its patient information accessible in a range of languages and formats. If you need this leaflet in another language or format please ask one of your clinical care team or the PALS Team. We will do our best to arrange this.

Issue date: July 2014

Review date: July 2017

Database reference: RWF-OPLF-PC43 © MTW NHS Trust