

Plans for re-opening studies

For a combination of reasons, most research involving patient contact has been suspended with the exception of COVID-19 research and a small number of other projects.

As plans are being made for the lockdown to ease this will likely lead to a partial resumption of normal NHS activities. We need to make similar plans to re-open clinical research in a way which is safe for both patients and staff.

The JRMO will apply some key principles to this process of re-opening clinical research. We are asking our researchers to consider how the following may impact the delivery of their research:

- (i) Clinical Services: We need to ensure that we are aligned to the opening of clinical services.
- (ii) Staffing: Research delivery staff may be working on CMO priority COVID-19 projects, redeployed to patient care or shielding.
- (iii) Maintaining social distancing: The government may issue new regulations on social distancing at work which affect both staff and patients.

Every study is different and so each will need an individual plan for re-opening.

Each research lead will need to consider the points above as they develop their plans. We need this to ensure every study has the appropriate safeguards in place.

The JRMO will be in touch again in the coming days once the Government issues guidance on the easing of the lockdown and new social distancing rules. Whilst we may have individual opinions about any new regulations, we nevertheless must still comply with them effectively.

We are happy to discuss how we can minimise the impact on your individual projects.

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