Statement on HRA-ISRCTN registry partnership

Here at the ISRCTN registry, we are delighted to announce our partnership with the Health Research Authority (HRA) announced on 20th October 2021.

ISRCTN shares the HRA's aim to promote transparency in health and social care research. In its Make it Public strategy, the HRA committed to ensuring that all interventional studies approved in the UK appear on a public registry recognised by the WHO. The HRA will achieve this by registering these studies with the ISRCTN registry before they commence. This process will start on 1 January 2022.

Our partnership will mean that the information available to patients and the public on the NHS Be Part of Research website will be much more complete and accessible. Previously, UK clinical trials of investigational medicinal products (CTIMPs) were mostly registered in the EU clinical trial registry via EudraCT; however, these studies were not visible in Be Part of Research. Others were registered in the US government's ClinicalTrials.gov, which does feed into Be Part of Research, but doesn't provide plain-language information tailored for a public audience in the UK. In future, all CTIMPs will be registered in the ISRCTN registry, meaning that they will have plain English summaries and public titles visible on Be Part of Research, with links to plain-language summaries of results added once studies are completed.

When an interventional study receives a favourable opinion from the research ethics committee (REC), data entered into the HRA's Integrated Research Application System (IRAS) will be transferred into the ISRCTN system to generate a submission. The submission will then be processed in the usual way by ISRCTN editors, who will contact the investigator or sponsor representative to collect any information that is missing. Once the record is complete and up to date the study will be registered. Over time, we will further align the IRAS form and ISRCTN record to minimise duplication of effort for trialists.