

# HRA Approval – Streamlining research approval



We have streamlined the approval process, enabling NHS organisations to focus their resources on assessing, arranging and confirming their capacity and capability to deliver the study.

# HRA Approval: Streamlining research approval

HRA Approval, managed by the Health Research Authority, is now the system for all study types in the NHS in England to commence. This gives assurance to the NHS and to patients and the public that all research meets the necessary legal and compliance standards.

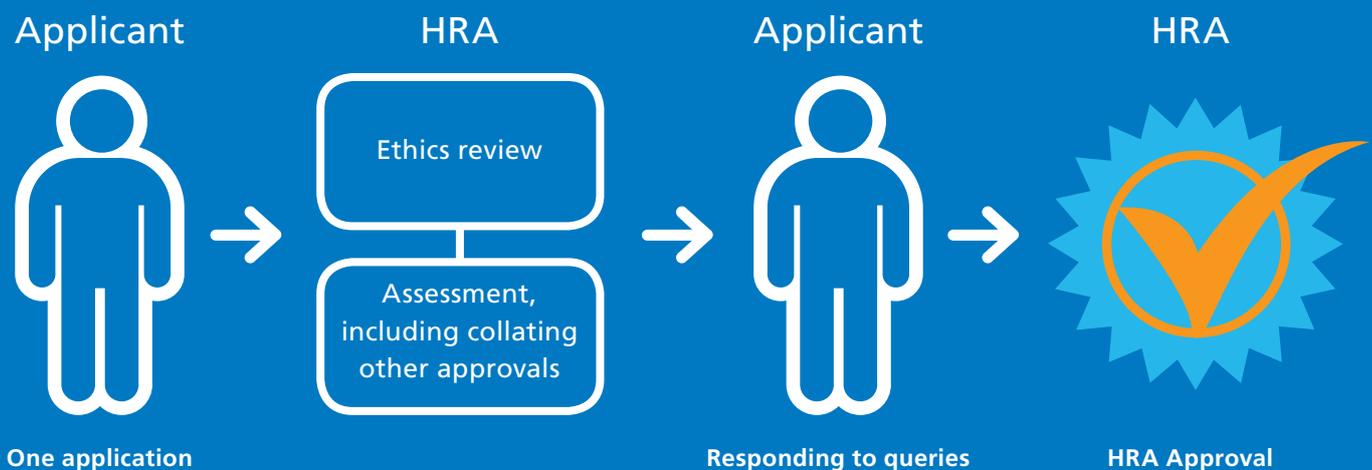
The HRA wants to make it easier to undertake responsible health research in the NHS in England as part of a UK-wide system. Our key aim is to simplify the process for approval of health research for researchers, thus reducing the time and cost of setting up studies.



# How does HRA Approval work?

HRA Approval brings together two processes into one simplified system: the assessment of governance and legal compliance previously undertaken by NHS organisations, and the ethics review.

This has improved flow through the system and, by removing duplication and waste, has enabled local NHS support teams to focus on the delivery of research.



## Key achievements

- Operational for all study types: HRA Approval has been implemented for all study types across the NHS in England. This has reduced duplication and inconsistency.
- Collaborative approach: The HRA works closely with researchers, R&D staff, sponsors and stakeholders to understand the challenges and work through solutions.
- Engagement: We are continuing to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to provide guidance and advice and we are actively supporting NHS organisations to align with HRA Approval.

# Continually improving

We introduced HRA Approval in a phased way so that we could learn from our stakeholders' experiences. We are continuing to review the system and make improvements based on feedback.

Introducing HRA Approval has highlighted other opportunities to increase efficiency across the whole research approval system. We are actively pursuing these opportunities in collaboration with other organisations.

**For more information go to:** [www.hra.nhs.net](http://www.hra.nhs.net)

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The HRA protects and promotes the interests of patients and the public in health and social care research. We work to make the UK a great place to do research where more people have the opportunity to participate in health and social care research and continue to feel safe when they do.