

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

**NETWORKED INNOVATION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR: COMPARATIVE
EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF CLAHRCs**

The overall aim of the project is to collect information on the role played by CLAHRCs (Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care) in promoting the translation of research into practice within the UK health sector. Nine CLAHRCs – co-funded by the NIHR - were established in 2009 with the aim of developing new approaches to healthcare research and enabling more research to be carried out. They also seek to ensure that research is focused on patients' needs and that findings can be put into practice more quickly to improve the care that patients receive. Each CLAHRC involves a collaboration across Universities, NHS trusts, local authorities and others. The study will run for three years from January 2010 and will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team from the Warwick Business School and Warwick Medical School. Funds were provided by the National Institute for Health Research through its SDO programme.

In this study, the role played by three CLAHRCs will be evaluated in relation to the remit specified by their SDO funding. Their role will also be compared with equivalent bodies in Canada and the USA - specifically a Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) and Boston University's Clinical and Translational Science Institute. This comparison will enable lessons to be learned from international experience. The scope of the study will range from identifying the influence of the policy environment and governance arrangements through to the study of specific CLAHRC projects. Each case-study site will be visited to gather information on the development of knowledge translation activities by the case organization and its external partners. The aim of this comparative evaluation is to highlight the development of the CLAHRCs' role in relation to supporting innovation and knowledge translation.

The UK part of the study involves two major phases of information gathering. In the first phase, we are developing information on three CLAHRCs as case-study sites. This will also involve reviewing the policy context and governance arrangements for the CLAHRCs

involved. The second phase of the study will focus on the knowledge translation activities involved in specific CLAHRC projects. In each phase, a range of methods will be used to gather information, including interviews, cognitive mapping exercises and an on-line survey tool to map out the social networks of CLAHRC members and their external partners.

The results from the study will be fed back to the organizations involved through a report. In addition, there will be interim and final reports to the SDO, and also national and regional dissemination events. By providing feedback and evaluation in this way, we aim to support improvement and learning by the CLAHRCs and by the NHS more generally.

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