

Why do I have to get approval for my research?

All research has required Ethics Approval since 1966. Historically, ethics committees were formed in response to atrocities carried out in the name of research during the 2nd world war. Research Governance was established in 2001 in response to enquiries in Alder Hey and Bristol. Research Governance ensures that those undertaking research take responsibility for the organisation and management of the projects and that the Trust where the research is taking place approves the study. Issues such as peer review, health & safety, data protection, funding & financial probity are covered.

What type of proposal has to be submitted for approval?

Both ethical and governance approval are required for:-

- all research which will involve NHS patients, carers or relatives
- the data, organs or other bodily material of NHS patients
- NHS staff, premises or facilities.

Some audits and evaluations relating to research will also require governance approval.

Governance approval is carried out by R&D departments in the relevant NHS Trust usually where the Chief Investigator is employed. If your research is to be conducted in more than one Trust you will have to ask each Trust involved for permission. The LREC administrator or local R&D dept. will be able to tell you how to go about this if it is necessary.

How do I get approval for my research?

Research governance and ethical approval are carried out in parallel.

Step 1: Contact both R&D and Ethics as early as possible, preferably in the proposal development stage to find out which Trusts you will require approvals from. You should remember that LRECs only meet once a month and some will not have a meeting for one summer month and one winter month.

Step 2: Complete the online application form from the COREC website www.corec.org.uk . Print off the completed application form and part D and pass to R&D who will review it. After reviewing the form, the R&D department will issue a registration number, and remind you of the necessity to obtain an honorary contract from the Trusts you will be working in, if applicable.

Step 3: While the application is being assessed by R&D, approach the local ethics committee (LREC) which deals with the Trust where the research will be carried out. R&D will identify the relevant ethics committee to which you should apply. Your application may be passed on to another LREC in the SHA with an earlier meeting date or lower workload if appropriate, so it is important to say which Trusts you want to work with at the outset.

Step 4: The LREC administrator will go through your application and ensure the application is valid, i.e. are all parts properly completed. The ethics committee has 60 days in which to give you a decision from the validation date.

Step 5: You or your supervisor, may be asked to attend the LREC meeting to present your application and answer any questions that may be raised. Otherwise you will be notified of the committee's decision after the LREC meeting. The LREC may require a response to a set of written questions, while they are waiting for adequate replies the 60 day clock stops.

Step 6: When ethics approval has been given, the Investigator should notify R&D who will give full approval for the research to start.

SE London R & D Contact Details

Bexley PCT	020 8298 6000
Bromley PCT	01689 853339
Bromley Hospitals	01689 865983
Guy's & St.Thomas'	020 7188 5735
Greenwich, Lewisham, Lambeth & Southwark PCTs	020 7902 2352
KCH	020 7346 3684 / 3841
Lewisham Hospital	020 8333 3030 ext 6873
Oxleas	01322 625756
QEH	020 8836 6740
QM Sidcup	020 8302 2678
SLAM/IOP	020 7848 0675

SE London Local Ethics Committee Contact Details

Bexley & Greenwich	020 8836 6740
Bromley	01689 865985
Guy's Hospital	020 7188 2260
King's College Hospital	020 7346 3923
Lewisham	020 8333 3135
SLAM/IOP	020 7848 0797
St. Thomas'	020 7188 2257

Non NHS

King's College London	020 7848 4020
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Useful Web addresses:

Research Support Unit supporting
Greenwich, Lewisham, Lambeth and
Southwark PCTs.

www.researchsupportunit.nhs.uk

Central Office for Research Ethics
Committees www.corec.org.uk

Department of Health Research pages
[www.dh.gov.uk/policyandguidance/research
handdevelopment](http://www.dh.gov.uk/policyandguidance/researchhanddevelopment)

Ethics and Governance Approval for NHS Research in South East London

SE London Strategic Health Authority
1 Lower Marsh, Waterloo, SE1 7NT

Tel: 020 7716 7061

www.selondon.nhs.uk/research