Research Ready – An Introduction
What is Research Ready?

Research Ready is a way of community pharmacy being more routinely involved in funded research, with appropriate financial reward for their time and ensuring that practices meet the minimum standards outlined in the Department of Health Research Governance Framework.

There is already a Research Ready initiative for general practice: we have tried to keep the elements the same for community pharmacy, so that we can engage with GPs about research and understand each other!
Levels of Research Involvement

Community pharmacy staff can engage with research in four ways, as shown in the “top-heavy pyramid” opposite:

- **Using research evidence to inform practice (everyone in pharmacy)**
- **Supporting research led by others – e.g. recruiting patients to research studies (many people)**
- **Collaborating in research – contributing to design, delivery & dissemination as a research partner (some people)**
- **Leading research as a principal investigator (a few people)**
Current Research Activity in Community Pharmacy

• Pharmacy research still largely takes place in the Schools of Pharmacy – community pharmacists take part, most often, as participants in research.

• More needs to be done to further close the gap between academia and practice, and between industry and patient-facing pharmacy.

• Greater support is needed to enable patient-facing pharmacists to pursue their own research ideas.

• Often Local/Regional initiatives are emerging – often driven by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Networks (CRN) (and, more recently, by industry) – to utilise community pharmacy in the delivery of funded research.

There is an opportunity to learn from local initiatives – to scale-up nationally/UK wide.
Research Ready for General Practice

• “Research Ready” is a scheme for GP Practices that was developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) in conjunction with the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Networks.

• GP practices must have up-to-date knowledge of the standards that are needed to undertake research, and the **physical facilities** required to successfully comply with research demands.

• It uses an online self – accreditation, based on 5 Core Competencies.

• RCGP accredits the GP scheme: NIHR CRN promotes and supports it.

• An evaluation of the GP Research Ready scheme demonstrated that RR gives staff confidence and competence to get involved.

It does not provide research skills training: it is a facilitating scheme to make sure that the team have the right support and environment in place to participate in research.
Research Ready - Competencies in the GP scheme

1. Is there support within the practice for research activity?

2. Does the practice have identified space and facilities to host research?

3. Can searches of the practice database be carried out?

4. Do you know what is required of your practice and individual members of staff with reference to research governance?

5. Are you aware of the responsibilities you have to your patients and staff if they are participating in research studies?
Research Ready – Competencies in the pharmacy scheme

1. Is there support within the pharmacy/company for research activity?
2. Does the pharmacy have identified space and facilities to host research?
3. Can searches of the PMR be carried out?
4. Does the pharmacy research lead know what is required of their pharmacy, and individual members of staff, with reference to research governance?
5. Is the pharmacy research lead aware of the responsibilities they have to their patients, public and staff if they are participating in research studies?

A ‘Research Lead’ should be appointed in each pharmacy. This could be a registered pharmacist or pharmacy technician. In GP practices, it is often a nurse. This person is the ‘first port of call’ for contact, but we hope that other team members will get involved.
Research Ready: What are the opportunities for pharmacy?

1. Opportunity for community pharmacy to be routinely involved in funded research (with appropriate financial reward). Roles include recruiting patients, handling new medicines (IMPs), delivering interventions etc.

2. Profile of community pharmacy is raised – both in healthcare and research. It is likely to create greater awareness of pharmacy amongst a wider population of health researchers (and the NIHR funding) – thus more studies will be designed with pharmacy in mind – thus more evidence of pharmacy’s role.

3. Free training and education for pharmacists and their teams (Good Clinical Practice) – leading to a more enquiry-led profession supporting greater research/evaluation demands in modern healthcare. This brings professional development, but also value to patients and to the business. There is a greater role of research and evaluation in service commissioning: greater research literacy in the workforce will support this.

4. Better access for patients to new medicines.
Research Ready: What are the opportunities for pharmacy?

- **Confidence** – patients can have confidence in pharmacy and the pharmacy team are confident in their competence.
- **Competence** – research competence within the pharmacy team
- **Compliance** – with the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care.
Research Ready: What are the opportunities for pharmacy?

- Sets standards
- Describes systems to deliver standards
- Describes systems for monitoring and assessment
- Aims to improve research quality
- Protects public/participants
- Promotes good practice
- Minimises adverse events
Find out more at:

www.rpharms.com/researchready