



# Research

A guide for patients



How you can get involved



## How can I get involved in research?



You may be approached by your doctor or nurse and invited to take part in a research study. You can also ask your healthcare professional if there is any research happening that you can be involved in.

If you agree to hear about taking part in a research project, one of our staff will explain the study to you. They will give you an information sheet and time to decide if it is something you wish to do. If you do not want to take part, your treatment will not be affected in any way. If you say yes, you can change your mind at any time and withdraw from the study without giving a reason.

You can also become a patient or a lay adviser to research teams and get actively involved in their work, giving your advice on the different stages of investigation and related activities. This might involve:

- giving feedback on plans for how to carry out a new study
- helping to write and review patient information leaflets
- helping shape how study results are communicated at the end of a study.

### Why should I get involved?

Research studies help doctors understand how to treat a particular disease or condition. It may benefit you, or others like you, in the future.

If you take part in research, you may be one of the first people to benefit from a new treatment.

Almost all decisions about your care and treatment are made on the basis of research done in the past. By participating in research, you may be benefitting your own future care, or that of your children or grandchildren. Your contribution will make a real difference.

Taking part in research helps the hospital to make sure our staff are at the forefront of knowledge in their field or specialty.

### What will I be asked to do?

Most research studies are designed so that patients are only asked to do a couple of things in addition to their normal treatment. You may be asked to fill in a questionnaire, provide an extra blood sample or attend an extra clinic appointment. Some studies are more complex, but everything will be fully explained to you before you agree to take part.

If you need to attend extra clinics or travel further than normal for your treatment we may be able to pay your travel expenses.



### Can I find out the results of the research?

Your research team will be able to provide you with feedback and we will feature some studies on the QVH website.

Some research is of national importance and will be published in medical and nursing journals. Your research team will be able to tell you more.

Your personal data will be held anonymously. It will not be possible to identify individual patients in any publication.



### How will I know that the research is well designed, ethical and safe?

The QVH Research and Development Department oversees and manages studies undertaken at the hospital. This is done in collaboration with the local Clinical Research Network. It makes sure that all research is conducted to a high scientific and ethical standard and complies with good clinical practice guidelines.

All our patient research has been approved by a Research Ethics Committee. It looks at the study from the patients' point of view and ensures participants are not exposed to unnecessary risk or inconvenience.



# Our focus on research

Queen Victoria Hospital is a leading specialist centre for reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation, helping people who have been damaged or disfigured through accidents or disease.

Our expert teams provide life-changing reconstructive surgery, burns care and rehabilitation services for people across the South of England. We also provide excellent services treating sleep disorders and conditions of the hands, eyes, skin and teeth.



## Recent research includes:

- Helping to design innovative new types of dressing that change colour to indicate the presence of infection
- Investigating how new technology can improve the treatment of patients suffering from facial palsy
- Collecting scar tissue with a view to developing a better understanding of how scars form and contributing to the ultimate goal of scar-free healing
- A study looking at non-site-specific pain following breast surgery
- Understanding the use of antibiotics in burns treatment
- Investigating quality of life and communication following jaw surgery
- Looking at the role of glasses in lazy eye treatment

We also help to connect patients with relevant national research studies.

Queen Victoria Hospital is a centre of excellence, with an international reputation for pioneering advanced techniques and treatments.

## Further contact

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us:

Research and Development Team

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