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Dear Investigator,

**NHS GG&C framework for restarting Clinical research activities which have been paused due to COVID-19**

We took the difficult decision to suspend recruitment into all clinical research studies others than those which were categorised as providing “essential clinical care” within NHS GG&C in mid-March. Since then we have continued to treat and follow up patients on CTIMP and medical device studies, and focus on new trials involving the detection, investigation, treatment and prevention of COVID-19.

April 2020 represented our most intense period of research activity in terms of participant recruitment on record and May is proving even busier. This has been enabled by our hard working and dedicated multi-disciplinary COVID-19 research teams based across the clinical sites within NHS GG&C and our outstanding patients and volunteers who have participated in these studies.

We appreciate that many research teams are keen to re-start clinical trial activity. NHS Research Scotland is in discussion with UK colleagues to enable a return to research activity, consistent with the Scottish Government’s COVID-19 framework for decision making (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis/>).

There are a number of pre-conditions (safety, capacity and readiness) that must be in place before studies can receive R&D approval to re-start.

The underlying principles are that

- Research should only restart/start when safe to do so and safety of research participants and personnel is of paramount importance.  
Government guidance on social distancing, travel and PPE requirements above standard of care needs to be considered
- Pace of restart and the commencement of new studies should be commensurate with capacity and readiness within NHS GG&C services
- Delivery of research will be dependent on relevant health and care services being 'open for business'

These are reflected within our local NHS GG&C checklist which must be completed prior to any study recommencing recruitment. In order to facilitate the process of re-opening studies, please send any requests relating to non-cancer studies along with the completed checklist to [RandDRecruitment@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:RandDRecruitment@ggc.scot.nhs.uk). For studies conducted at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, please work with the team in the Beatson CRF who will be approaching principal investigators about this process and helping them to complete a cancer specific version of this checklist.

In addition, ***with the exception of cancer studies supported by the Beatson CRF***, all activity including studies involving the safehaven and biorepository will need to be prioritised (due to the current level of COVID-19 research) along the following lines (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/restart-framework/24886>):

**Level 1:** Essential studies providing evidence for pandemic management, i.e. nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health (UPH) Research studies.

**Level 2:** Studies where the research protocol provides patients or participants with an urgent treatment or intervention without which they would come to harm. These might be studies that provide access to essential treatment not otherwise available to the patient.

**Level 3:** All other studies (including new COVID-19 studies not in Level 1).

Should have any queries please direct them to myself or Chloe Cowan at the Glasgow CRF [Chloe.Cowan@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Chloe.Cowan@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) or Ruth Orr at the Beatson CRF [ruth.orr@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.orr@glasgow.ac.uk) (as applicable).

Yours sincerely,



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