



The Role of a Clinical Research Practitioner in improving quality and efficiency in the delivery of clinical hearing research

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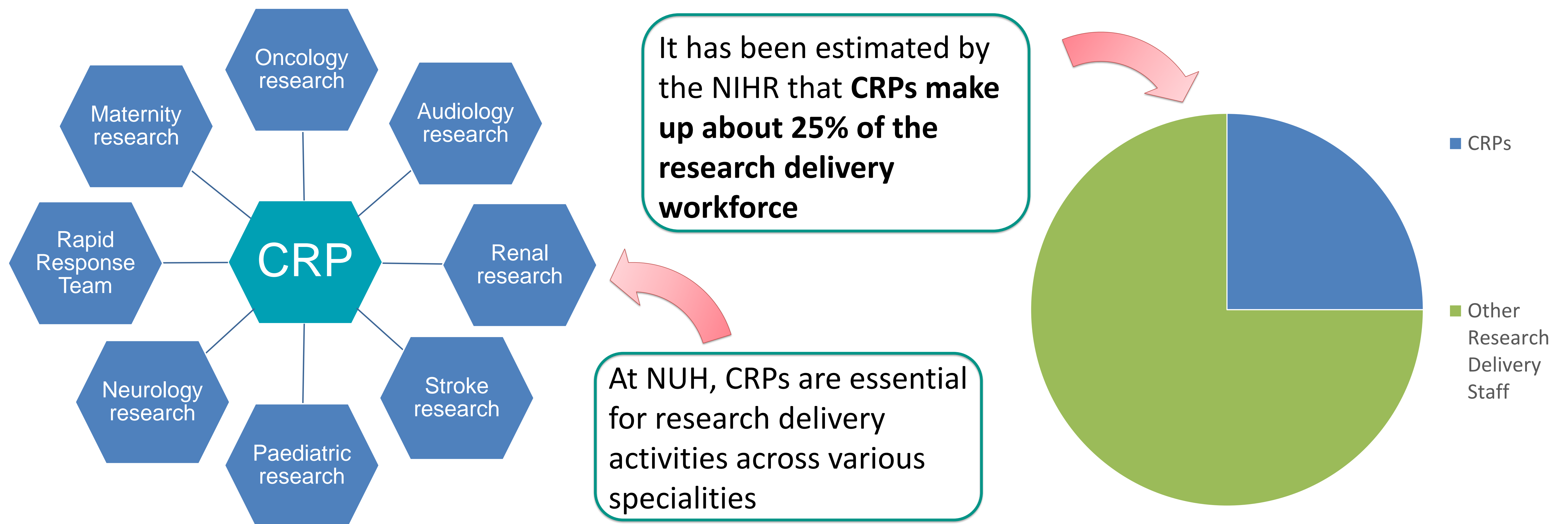
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The Role of Clinical Research Practitioners in NHS research

Clinical Research Practitioners (CRPs) have become an essential part of the research delivery team in any research discipline. Typically working alongside Research Nurses, but often independently leading non-CTIMP trials. CRPs often come from various education backgrounds, not always related to healthcare or science, and receive on-the-job training to allow them to assist in delivering research within their team and speciality. CRPs are often trained to perform clinical procedures such as Venepuncture and ECGs to allow for data collection in trials. Clinical roles can often match roles of nurses in research, with the very important distinction that CRPs cannot prescribe or administer drugs to patients. The role of CRP is developing with many CRPs undertaking leadership roles and progressing to higher pay bands within the role.

My role as Clinical Research Practitioner in Hearing Research

- ✓ Work alongside Research Audiologists, Clinicians and Research Fellows
- ✓ Trained to perform audiological and hearing tests:
 - ✓ Pure Tone and Bone Conduction Audiometry
 - ✓ Tympanometry and otoscopy
 - ✓ Various speech tests
- ✓ Work at NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre
- ✓ To be involved in clinical trial design and writing of research papers and systematic reviews



Clinical Research Practitioners registration with The Academy for Healthcare Science

Approximately a year ago, the CRP role became recognised by The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) and CRPs with relevant training, qualifications and experience, can apply to join the AHCS Accredited Register for CRPs. To apply CRPs have to be in the post for at least a year if they have an undergraduate degree, or three years otherwise; they are required to complete a series of reflections based on their experience and obtain their manager's approval. Once submitted, the application is reviewed and assessed, and if successful the CRP is added to the register. The registration is to be renewed annually. Becoming registered allows the CRP to be recognised as a healthcare professional, as well as benefit from various career development opportunities and progression within the role.

Hearing Research at the Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre

The NIHR Nottingham BRC forms part of the Government's initiative to improve the translation of basic science into clinical benefits for patients. The BRC works as a partnership between the University of Nottingham and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, and we are one of the only three BRC in England dedicated to hearing research. We aim to adopt 80% of our studies onto the NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio. We are also involved in large trials taking place across the UK, such as COACH and BEARs. The addition of a CRP, increased capacity within the team, as tasks such as consenting participants do not have to be performed by Audiologists. Additionally, studies can be ran with non-research Audiologists under guidance from the CRP.

