

RDN Funding Categories

The schedule describes the Funding Categories outlined in Section 4 Financial Arrangements.

1 RRDN Team

1.1 RRDN Management Team

1.1.1 Staff employed to deliver the services and functions within the RRDN. These staff may be employed by, or on behalf of, the RRDN Host organisation and include the RRDN directors (RRDN Director, Operations Director, Strategic Development Director, Health and Care Research Director (NMAHP), Health and Care Research Director (Medical)) and other staff as defined in the organogram (excluding the Agile Research Delivery Team and Regional Specialty and Setting Leads).

1.1.2 Costs for the RRDN Management team are fixed. They include the staff costs, employer payroll on-costs (National Insurance and Pension Contributions) including an allowance for expenses. The budget has used the top of the NHS AfC bandings and included London Weightings.

1.1.3 Variable funding is provided for the Study Support Team in regions where a higher volume of activity is expected. This funding includes the staff costs applicable to the NHS AfC Band 7 and Band 6, employer payroll on-costs (National Insurance and Pension Contributions) including an allowance for expenses. The budget has used the top of the NHS AfC bandings and includes London Weightings.

1.2 Study Support Services

1.2.1 Four Settings Leads and twenty-nine Specialty Leads provide leadership and advice, identify opportunities and challenges, support research delivery and participate in regional or national projects relating to capacity, capability and accessibility for research delivery.

1.2.2 The overall RDN Funding allocation for Regional Specialty and Setting Leads is fixed; therefore the total cost across the twelve regions must not exceed this budget. The budget has been forecasted using staff costs, employer payroll on-costs (National Insurance and Pension Contributions) including an allowance for expenses. The budget has used the top of the NHS AfC bandings and included London Weightings.

1.3 Agile Research Delivery Team

1.3.1 A regional based team of flexible, multi-disciplinary staff who are deployed to support the delivery of RDN Portfolio studies across a range of health and care specialties and settings. The team consists of core peripatetic delivery staff whose roles are tailored to meet needs specific to the settings and the regional population.

1.3.2 Costs for the Agile Research Delivery Team are split into fixed and variable, with the latter being applied to regions where the geographical area is higher than the average. They include the staff costs, employer payroll on-costs (National Insurance and Pension Contributions) including an allowance for expenses. The budget has used the top of the NHS AfC bandings and included London Weightings.

2 RRDN Services (excluding RRDN Staff, maximum of 9% of staff costs))

2.1 Host Services

The services, functions and working arrangements that the RRDN Host organisation must supply, excluding the RRDN Staff. This includes:

8. the premises, facilities and equipment needed by the RRDN Staff
9. any access arrangements the RRDN Staff may need
10. corporate services
 - a. recruitment and HR services
 - b. finance management
 - c. administration of RRDN contracts and legal agreements
 - d. legal advice
 - e. procurement and purchasing
 - f. information governance and data protection
11. business continuity and disaster recovery.

2.2 LPMS

The adoption and access to NIHR information systems and a portfolio management system which interfaces with the Central Portfolio Management System

- 2.3** The level of funding provided to RRDN Hosts for the services noted above has been outlined in the RDN Funding allocation. This funding amount should not be exceeded without the prior agreement of the RRDN Director, who will work within the parameters agreed by the RDN Board.

3 Research Delivery Support

3.1 Hospital Settings

All NHS trusts, including Mental Health, Community and Ambulance will receive an RDN funding allocation through the hospital model. The budget is nationally calculated and allocated through RRDNs to delivery organisations. These are the 3 key areas which will be used to calculate an NHS trust's RDN budget: historical allocation, activity-based funding and performance.

3.2 Wider Care Settings

Wider care settings in the RDN funding model include all organisations from primary care, residential care and community-based settings.

Wider care settings funding will be managed at a regional level based on a national distribution model. Each RRDN will receive a wider care settings allocation.

This includes funding for organisations like GP practices, care homes, dental practices, prisons and schools. In addition, it can support NHS trusts who provide research in wider

care settings.

The funding model builds on, but significantly updates previous schemes for awarding funding to primary care and other wider care organisations. Organisations can secure funding appropriate to their level of activity and their research plans, through a combination of retrospective and prospective funding.

Retrospective funding is awarded for agreed research activities, typically study support costs and other payments for portfolio study delivery i.e., it is based on activity undertaken.

Prospective funding, often known as 'infrastructure' funding, covers the time for staff to undertake research activities, building capacity in the site that is proportional to its plans for research.

4 Research Delivery Ringfenced

4.1 Clinical Support Services

4.1.1 In order to deliver their local portfolio of studies, Delivery Organisations in receipt of this funding are able to determine how this money is used as long as it is used for the following purposes:

- to support the research workforce to ensure that healthcare staff of all backgrounds and roles are given the right support to deliver clinical research as an essential part of care;
- to ensure clinical research embedded in the NHS so that research is increasingly seen as an essential part of healthcare to generate evidence about effective diagnosis, treatment and prevention;
- to enable people-centred research to make it easier for patients, service users and members of the public across the UK to access research and be involved in the design of research, and to have the opportunity to participate;
- to ensure streamlined, efficient and innovative research so that the UK is seen as one of the best places in the world to conduct cutting-edge clinical research, driving innovation in healthcare;
- to enable research through data and digital tools to ensure the best use of resources, leveraging the strength of UK health data assets to allow for more high-quality research to be delivered.

4.2 Pharmacy Capacity

4.2.1 To meet recommendations noted in the O'Shaughnessy review, additional funding is provided over three financial years - 2024/25 to 2026/27 - to address immediate staffing needs within NHS trust pharmacy departments and therefore support pharmacy services for commercial and non-commercial clinical trials.

4.2.2 This "pass through" funding is channelled via the RRDNs to specific NHS trusts which have been identified by the Authority.

5 Strategic Funding

5.1 National Strategic Funding

A budget that is managed through the national strategy board, which can be used to make larger scale investments across multiple regions. It will be distributed regionally with a national framework for consistency. Strategic awards are a source of funding aimed at supporting

delivery of the RDN strategic commitments, government 'shifts' (hospital to community, analogue to digital, sickness to prevention) and enabling inclusive health and care research delivery across England.

Delivery organisations can access regional strategic budgets through a combination of commissioned and open calls. Timelines, application processes and panel decision making will be standardised across all regions. This means delivery organisations will know when to expect strategic funding opportunities in advance.

5.2 Regional Strategic Funding

Regional budgets allocated to each RRDN for distribution for strategic initiatives that are important to the region.

6 Nationwide NHS Support Services

6.1 Radiotherapy Trials Quality Assurance (RTTQA)

The national RTTQA group provides centrally supported quality assurance for all RDN Portfolio studies involving radiotherapy in order to eliminate bias due to systematic variation in radiotherapy delivery.

6.2 Primary Care Research Informatics & Digital Environment Solutions (PRIDES) Coordinating Hub

A programme to standardise the Health Informatics development and sharing processes currently undertaken by RRDN staff, GP practices and study teams that are essential for complex studies delivered in primary care settings. In line with instructions from the NIHR RDN Coordinating Centre, this funding shall be used in the following priority areas;

- a) Network readiness
- b) BAU delivery model
- c) RRDN workforce capacity building
- d) External and internal communications
- e) Early Contact and Engagement activities
- f) Research codes and text messaging
- g) GP system suppliers and other key stakeholders.

6.3 BEST4

Funding is provided to support the mobile screening units for the Barrett's Oesophagus Trial 4 (BEST4): A Randomised Control Trial Comparing capsule sponge Test Screening to Usual Care Study.

7. RDN Transition Exceptional Costs

7.1 Non-recurring and/or time-limited exceptional costs incurred by the Host Organisation arising solely from the RDN Transition process, whether this transition occurs prior to the

commencement of, or at the completion of, the Work Programme. This funding may be used, for example, to pay additional HR support to assist with TUPE arrangements, RRDN Staff redundancy or for secondary office costs in merged networks. Any such costs will be regarded as exceptional, and will be considered on a case by case basis. The payment of any costs shall not be considered as setting any precedent.

8. Adjustments

- 8.1 Adjustments to RRDN Host Organisation and/or Delivery organisation funding may take place within a financial year, for example, as a result of in-year redistribution of funding or additional funding awards.