

# What is ACCORD?

ACCORD is a partnership between the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian, supporting clinical researchers.

The partnership is underpinned by a joint Research Framework Agreement.

## What is ACCORD?

ACCORD supports around 1000 projects each year, ranging from short student studies to complex interventional investigations and multicentre trials

Supporting academic researchers and commercial companies throughout the UK and internationally to conduct their clinical research

NHS Lothian has an excellent international reputation for its clinical research activities, while Edinburgh University is Scotland's top-ranked research institution and one of the UK's leading research universities.

By drawing together key research management staff from these organisations, ACCORD provides streamlined access to professional advice, expert regulatory support and world-class clinical research infrastructure

ACCORD supports researchers to obtain research approvals and manage their projects, aiming to ensure that we all meet research governance and regulatory requirements, fulfilling legal, ethical and scientific obligations, whilst nurturing and attracting world-class research.

## The office has 2 distinct functions

### Sponsorship

ACCORD provides sponsorship for University of Edinburgh and/or NHS Lothian-led health and social care research studies. Contact the [Research Governance Team](#) if you have any questions or if you would like advice about sponsorship.

### NHS Lothian R&D Approval

NHS Lothian R&D provides Management Approval for research studies involving NHS Lothian as a site. Contact the [R&D Team](#) if you have a question specific to NHS Lothian R&D.

## Do I need ACCORD approval for my study?

ACCORD is the name of the joint office, and not a legal entity, so 'ACCORD approval' does not really exist.

We agree to act as Sponsors on behalf of the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian. Your research may be sponsored by one organisation or, more commonly, co-sponsored by both. We provide R&D Management approval for NHS Lothian to participate as a site in a research study.

Sponsorship and R&D Management approval are different from a Research Ethics Committee opinion.