

Discover – a route to research success

**A new health research platform for
North West London**



The logo for 'Discover' features the word in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' is white and is enclosed within a multi-colored, rounded rectangular border that transitions through a spectrum of colors: purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red.

North West London's health research register



An essential tool for health researchers

What is Discover?

Discover provides health researchers with a single point of access to data and potential research subjects in North West London (NWL). It is a gateway to a database of linked health and social care de-identified data of 2 million patients in the area, including the records of adults who have consented to hear about relevant health research opportunities.

It has been developed for the research community by Imperial College Health Partners (IChP), the designated academic health science network (AHSN) for NWL, in partnership with the Collaboration of NWL CCGs.

Study recruitment

Through an ever-growing database of adults from across NWL who have registered an interest in taking part in health research, Discover can save researchers the valuable time often spent in approaching numerous health providers in the hope of finding research subjects. Instead, researchers can search the de-identified database for appropriate individuals and then the Discover Team is able to re-identify the records and make contact to outline the proposed research and ask consent for the researcher to contact the individuals directly.

Powerful data

The data used by Discover comes from one of the most powerful datasets in the UK – the NWL Whole Systems Integrated Care (WSIC) database. This is a unique dataset which includes linked, coded data from primary, secondary, mental health, community and social care for over 2 million people in NWL. Coupling this extensive data access with the specialist knowledge, experience and skills of our in-house health data analysts, we can offer support to run both prospective and retrospective studies to generate evidence from the real world.

Unlike with most other data services, the WSIC dataset can be used to identify and track relevant individual patient journeys, providing valuable holistic insight into how a complete pathway is working, the individual experiences of people coping with particular health conditions, and where there may be gaps and opportunities in care.

Another unique feature of the WSIC dataset is that it can be used to develop a better understanding of what services the local commissioners fund in a real world integrated health and social care services setting.

Discover services

Health research register

The Discover register is a searchable database of the patients and healthy members of the public included in the WSIC data who have consented to be contacted about relevant research opportunities. The aim of the register is to radically improve the way researchers are able to recruit to studies and ensure that researchers can meet recruitment targets by offering a 'one-stop-shop' for research recruitment.

Feasibility dashboard

Discover's feasibility dashboard allows basic searches to be run and ask simple study feasibility questions to support study design. The dashboard is a user-friendly way for researchers to check how many records match study criteria. If the results look promising or if they show that more work is needed on study design, the Discover team can then support the researcher in getting the project off the ground.

Data analytics

The real power of Discover is the linked integrated patient level data that can be used to deliver retrospective, observational and real world evidence studies. Depending on the skills and experience of individual researchers in using SQL data base skills, the Discover Team can either facilitate independent access to the de-identified WSIC data, or offer support with study design and data interrogation, delivered by specialist health data analysts.

Publication of research

The Discover team has an extensive network including clinicians, academics and medical writers and are well placed to fulfil their ambition of producing research that can be published in peer reviewed journals.



How to access Discover

Discover is available to academic, NHS and commercial researchers. Academic and NHS researchers using Discover must either be employed or sponsored by an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) signatory. This includes all of NWL's Trusts, eight local authorities and most of the 362 GP practices in NWL. Commercial organisations wishing to take advantage of Discover's services must be working in partnership with one of our local academic and NHS researchers. If you don't have a local partner we can help facilitate this for you.

Step 1

Download an application form from the 'researchers' section at www.registerfordiscover.org.uk and send your completed form to researchers@registerfordiscover.org.uk. Note that you will also need to submit ethical approval (where required) and R&D approval.

Step 2

The Discover Team will review your application with you to check the feasibility of your requirements and agree any analytical services to be provided. They will provide a price and schedule for delivery pending approval of the application.

Step 3

The application is submitted to the monthly Discover Research Access Group for consideration and approval. Once approved, the real work can begin.



Contact Us

- Phone: 08000 288480
- Email: researchers@registerfordiscover.org.uk
- Twitter: @Join_Discover

About ICHP

ICHP is a not-for-profit partnership organisation which brings together NHS providers of healthcare services, Clinical Commissioning Groups and leading universities across NWL. It is the designated Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) for NWL and a member of the national AHSN Network.

ICHP innovates and collaborates for a healthier population, turning the potential of innovation into reality to help solve pressing challenges by collaborating across the health sector.

For more information about ICHP, visit <https://imperialcollegehealthpartners.com/>

About the Whole Systems Integrated Care (WSIC) database

The NWL Whole Systems Integrated Care (WSIC) database is a unique system created by the Collaboration of NWL Clinical Commissioning Groups. It provides a single repository of de-identified longitudinal data which links primary, secondary, mental health and social care data for over 2 million people and 362 GP practices in NWL.

Content is updated by each participating provider on a weekly or monthly basis.

For more information about WSIC,

visit <http://integration.healthiorthwestlondon.nhs.uk/>

