The people who carry out research are mostly the same doctors and healthcare professionals who treat people. Their aim is to find better ways of looking after patients and keeping people healthy.

There are many different types of research and they cover a range of activities, from working in a scientific laboratory to carefully noting patterns of health and disease and developing new treatments.

Research and clinical trials are an everyday part of the work done in the NHS, but this role can also take place within pharmaceutical companies, small independent firms and even on a freelance basis.

**Clinical Trial Co-ordinator**

The Clinical Trial Co-ordinator’s primary responsibility, as with all clinical research professionals, is the protection of human subjects, but they also have many other responsibilities. Although not inclusive, some of the responsibilities include preparing the Institutional Review Board submission, writing the informed consent document, working with the institutional official in contract negotiations, developing a detailed cost analysis, negotiating the budget with the sponsor (i.e. pharmaceutical company or granting agency), subject recruitment, patient care, adverse event reporting, preparing the case report form (CRF), submitting CRFs, and other data to the sponsor as necessary and study close-out.

**Clinical Trial Project Manager**

Project Managers are the primary day-to-day liaisons with the sponsors’ key decision makers; providing constant updates, adjusting plans as needed to stay on track, and managing the relationship to ensure that sponsors’ needs and expectations are met.

Another key competency for the new generation of project managers is the ability to think strategically and grasp the ‘big picture’ of the clinical trials they are overseeing. It is this type of insight that allows project managers to establish performance baselines and proactively manage trials to keep them on track. Strategic thinking also requires a degree of creativity and flexibility that is essential to successfully managing today’s complex global trials. With a keen focus on risk management, project managers must have the ability to adjust to the unforeseen contingencies that arise in every trial and keep the study team moving forward without unnecessary delays.

**Vacancy Sources**

- **Clinical Contract Research Association**
  [http://www.crra.org.uk/MemberProfiles_New/default.asp](http://www.crra.org.uk/MemberProfiles_New/default.asp)
  Website contains a complete list of all members of the Association. A good place to look for organisations to contact about work experience and vacancies.

- **Clinical Professionals**
  [www.clinicalprofessionals.eu/c clinical-research](http://www.clinicalprofessionals.eu/c clinical-research)
  Clinical Professionals recruits for clinical research jobs across Europe on a permanent, contract or temporary basis from entry level through to Clinical Research Associate (CRA), Project Management and beyond.

- **Emecareers**
  [www.emedcareers.com/jobs/clinical-research/clinical-project-manager](http://www.emedcareers.com/jobs/clinical-research/clinical-project-manager)
  Lists Clinical Trial Project Manager roles.

- **New Scientist Jobs**
  Jobs board for science roles. Has a sub-category for clinical posts under the ‘Job Roles’ section of the website.

- **Muscular Dystrophy Campaign**
  [www.muscular-dystrophy.org/research/grants/current_grants](http://www.muscular-dystrophy.org/research/grants/current_grants)
  Information on the role of a Clinical Trial Coordinator (click on the ‘Clinical trial coordinator’ link.)

- **Agency Central**
  [www.agencycentral.co.uk/agencysearch/pharm/skills/ clinical/clinicaltrialcoordinators.htm](http://www.agencycentral.co.uk/agencysearch/pharm/skills/clinical/clinicaltrialcoordinators.htm)
  Lists recruitment agencies for Clinical Trial roles.

- **PharmiWeb.com**
  [www.pharmiweb.com/jobs/clinical-project-manager.asp](http://www.pharmiweb.com/jobs/clinical-project-manager.asp)
  An online news source for the pharmaceutical trade, which also hosts a job board. The above link will take you directly to any clinical project manager positions that are currently being advertised, use the search bar to find other positions of interest.