

RCN International Nursing Research Conference 2026

Research Without Boundaries: Innovation, Collaboration and Global Impact

In 2026, we are pleased to build on last year's success and continue our commitment to Clinical Research Nursing with a full day of CRN-focused content on day three of the conference, with academic nursing research content interwoven in the programme.

The organising committee encourage submissions from clinical research nurses on the following topics; Education, Professional Development, Leadership, Inclusivity, Workforce, Out of hospital settings, Patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE): developing as a Principle Investigator. Please note, there will not be the opportunity to submit an abstract for a Symposium for the Clinical Research Nursing content of the programme.

Please check the definitions below to aid which track to submit your work to; nursing research or clinical research nursing.

Definitions

Nursing research

We welcome all types of nursing research: qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods. We wish to celebrate you and the methodology and approach you took for your research.

Clinical research nursing

Clinical Research Nurses (CRNs) develop, lead and oversee and support the set up and delivery of a range of research studies, across a variety of settings. They play a vital role in research aimed at improving and advancing patient and population health and social care. Examples of studies include those investigating new treatments, devices or therapeutic interventions. CRNs may support various methodologies and research designs including, but not limited to, clinical trials. Responsibilities include informing patients and healthy participants about research studies, supporting or leading the informed consent process, training colleagues and departments to undertake clinical research, undertaking study procedures and providing care and treatment during study visits including administering study medications or interventions.

Additional support for CRN submissions

If you would like further guidance on this, you can contact one of the following in your relevant geographical area:

England: Helen Jones helenc.jones@nhs.net, Gail Mills gail.mills2@nhs.net

Wales: Jayne Goodwin Jayne.goodwin3@wales.nhs.uk

Scotland: Steve McSwiggan steve.mcswiggan@nhs.scot

Northern Ireland: Sonia McKenna Sonia.mckenna@nicrn.hscni.net

Please see the website to view a recording of a webinar held by the CRN sub-committee in 2025, which provided further support on writing an abstract.

Criteria for abstract selection

For inclusion in the conference programme, the Scientific Committee will ONLY consider abstracts that meet the following criteria:

Core criteria relevant to all modes of presentation

1. There are two tracks you can submit to:
 - **Nursing research** abstracts must be about a research project or a critical reflection on a research related issue (for example policy or a methodological issue).
 - Abstracts submitted specifically for the **Clinical Research Nursing** strand of the programme should be in keeping with the definition of clinical research nurses outlined above. The abstracts should outline issues relevant to research delivery, such as the role of the Clinical Research Nurse, innovative ways of working, examples of initiatives related to local or national strategies or collaborations with colleagues in non-research settings. The abstracts do not need to report exclusively on primary research although may include academic work focused on the Clinical Research Nurse speciality, such as MSc or doctoral studies. We are interested in examples of clinical research nursing practice across all settings, including primary care, secondary care, health and social care.
2. Material presented in abstracts must be concise and coherent, with the focus of the abstract and its relevance to an international audience stated clearly e.g. a local study needs to be placed in some generalised context
3. The authors must make explicit what they intend to present.
4. The abstract title should be short and clearly declare the content of the abstract.
5. Abstracts of empirical studies must outline the research process and the focus of the analysis, they must indicate the month(s) and year(s) when the data were collected and provide an indication of the results. (NB an abstract will not be accepted if data has not already been collected).
6. Abstracts reporting on the results of research studies should be structured: background, aims, methods, results, discussion and conclusions. Statistics including sample size and sampling method used must be supplied where appropriate.
7. Abstracts relating to methodological papers should include: background to the method, debate, topic etc. including definition of technical terms; aims of the paper; methodological discussion/presentation; a conclusion which summarises the contribution of the paper.
8. Relevant contextual information including definitions of specialist terms must be given.
9. Authors must consider and specify how their paper contributes to the development of a generalised knowledge base e.g. a service evaluation is likely to be of little interest to an audience unless its contribution to theory, policy or future practice in different settings, is made clear.
10. All abstracts must be text (i.e. no graphs, diagrams) and written in English

All accepted abstracts will be published 'as submitted'. It is therefore incumbent upon the author to ensure that the spelling, grammar and syntax is of an academic publishing standard.

Criteria including word limits, specific to the mode of presentation

1. The word limit must be adhered to, the AMS will automatically limit entry:
 - a) For concurrent oral, flash talks, poster and ViPER submissions the word limit is 300 (excluding references).
These must not contain information which could identify the author/s, as these are reviewed blind.
 - b) For symposium submissions the word limit is 300 for each of the individual papers to be included in the symposium (excluding references and authors' details).
2. For concurrent oral, flash talks, poster and ViPER, up to three references may be cited and these must be provided using the Harvard referencing system. Further guidance on referencing can be found [here](#).

Guidance notes for completing your submission

- **Title of paper:** please avoid using abbreviations wherever possible. Use title case rather than capitals throughout the title.
- **Keywords:** when selecting your topics on the AMS, please make your track selection and follow the guidance as below:

Academic nursing research

- a) choose up to three words from the question ***clinical topic, research field and research issues***
- b) choose one word from the question ***research approach***
- c) choose one word from the question ***data collection or analysis method***

Clinical research nursing (CRN)

- a) one keyword from ***topics***
- b) one keyword from ***clinical topic***
- c) one keyword from ***research approach***

- **Symposia:** Each paper in a symposium will need to be individually submitted on the abstract management system.

An overarching statement which links the papers together will also be required as a separate submission.

Authors of all papers should agree a consistent overarching symposium title in addition to their paper title. This will ensure that papers can be easily identified by administrators and grouped together for reviewers. The naming convention to follow is ***Symposium Title | Paper Title | Paper No.***

For example

- Menopause in the nursing workplace – Overarching statement (0)
- Menopause in the nursing workplace - an international collaborative project (1)

- Menopause in the nursing workplace - using The Framework Method to analyse data across different countries (2)
- Menopause in the workplace – an organisation-based case study (3)

Sponsored educational events

The RCN offers sponsorship opportunities to organisations wishing to host their own educational sessions. Abstract submissions that align to a commercial entity maybe subject to additional review and managed under the programme of sponsored activity.

To discuss the options for sponsored educational events please email our [corporate relations team](#) or call [020 7647 3940](#).