

Achieving Linchpin Effectiveness in Clinical Research Nursing Practice

Jessica Taylor ¹ and Caroline Saunders ²

Introduction/Background

Clinical research nurses (CRNs) are 'Linchpins' (Pick et al, 2011). This is not a novel concept. However, when compared to the written account 'a fastener used to prevent a wheel from sliding off the axle' this provides a unique perception. CRNs analogously hold the research facility together as the integral middle component between investigator, participant and the continuously evolving research wheel. Ward nurses transitioning into this linchpin role often find this challenging, stressful and isolating (Sandhu, 2014). This provided a rationale for creating a development tool which eases CRN transition through enforcing Linchpin priorities upon them.

Method

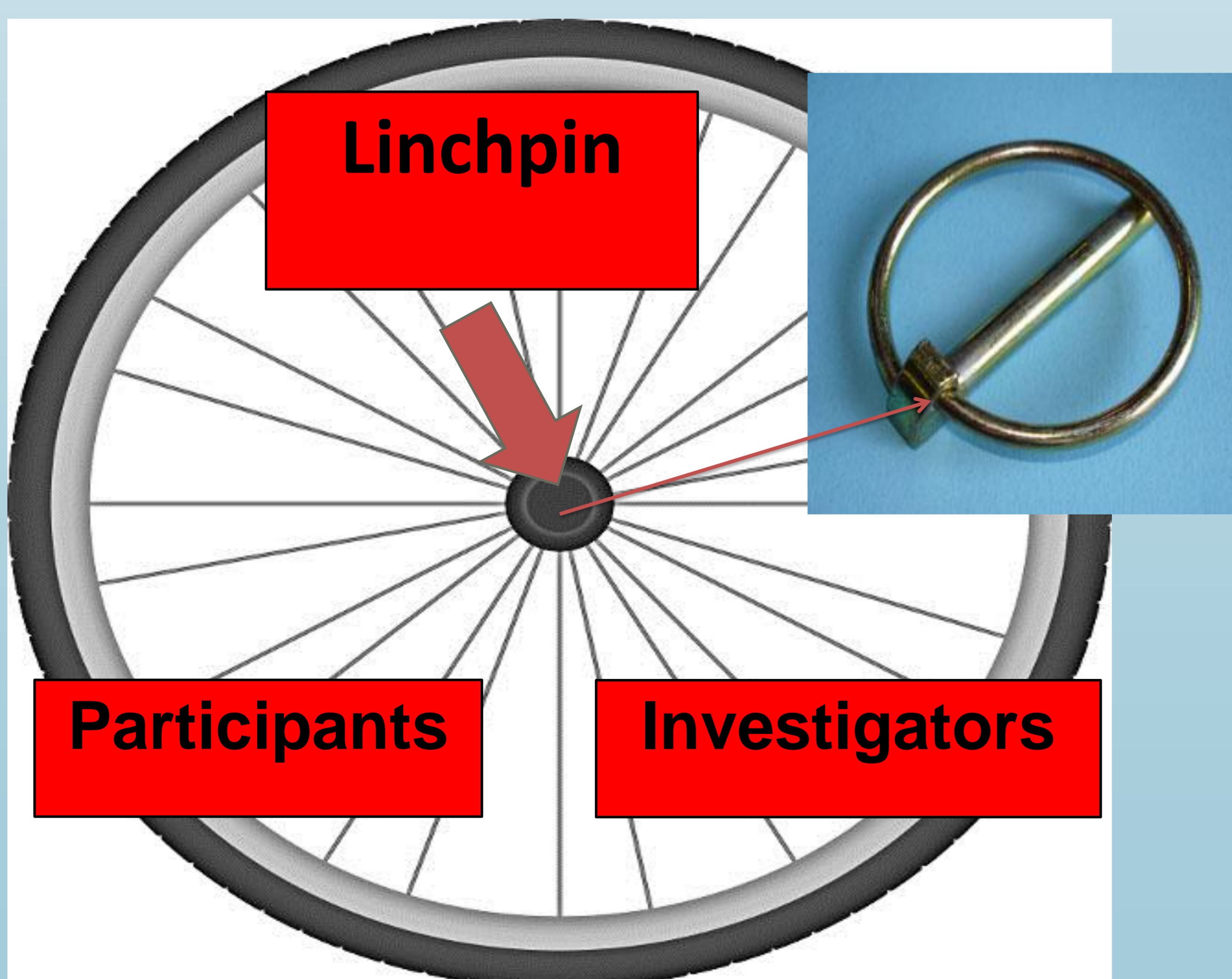
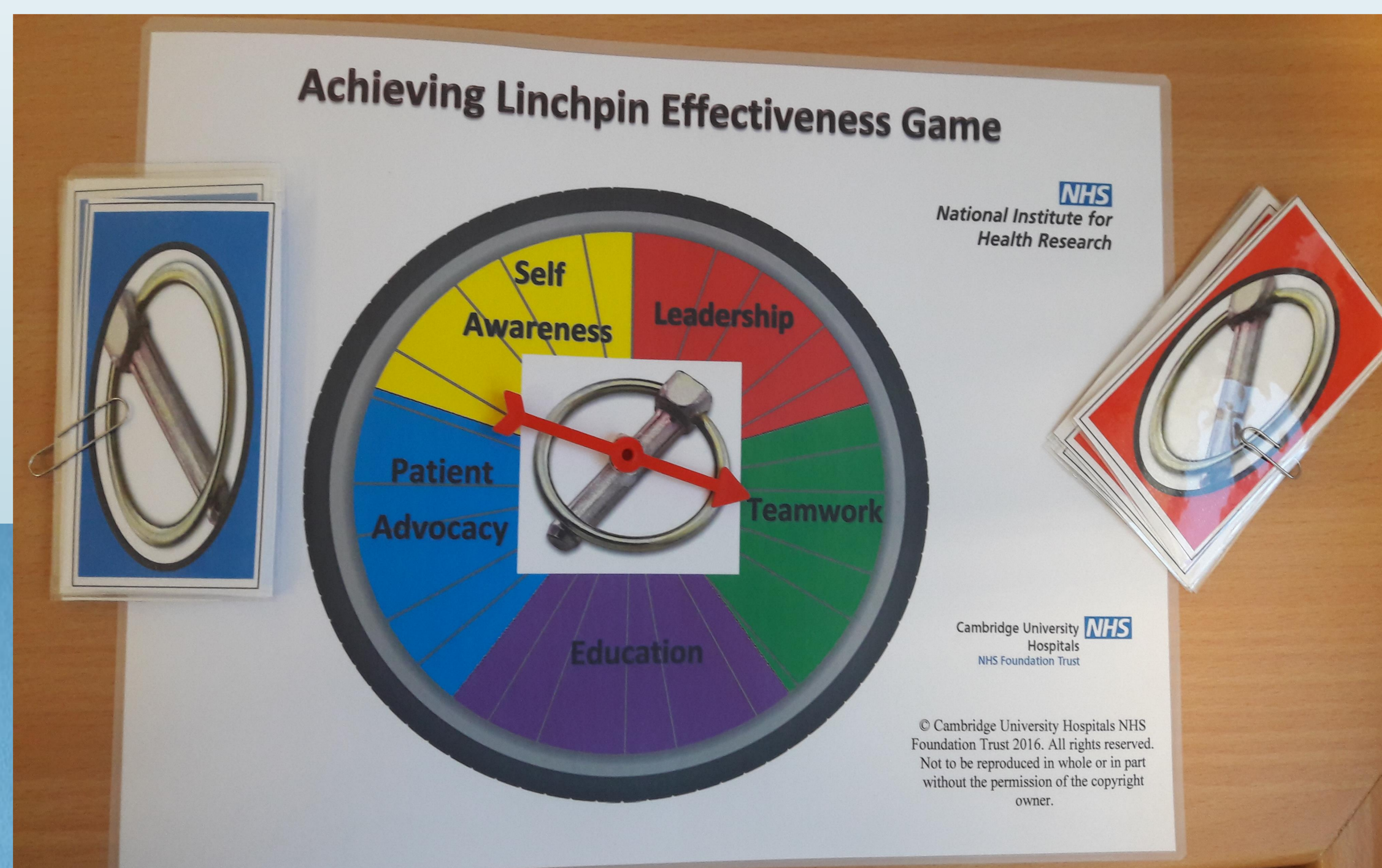
The development tool was presented to and then used by 7 CRNs within the NIHR/Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility team day. The 7 CRNs used the tool; they were asked to spin a spinner which landed on 1 of 5 priorities: self-awareness, leadership, teamwork, education and patient advocate. On landing on the priorities, the player must then say out loud why they feel this is a priority for the 'linchpin'. The aim of the tool is to promote awareness for research nurses in transitioning roles to identify the key elements required to achieve 'linchpin' effectiveness, to ultimately support both participants and investigators more robustly. The tool was then later surveyed by (n=15) CRNs.

Results

Preliminary findings highlighted that the tool is easy to use and multipurpose with CRNs (n=14) reporting they may or definitely would like to see the tool used for CPD locally.

Conclusions

The findings have highlighted a local need to implement the development tool to evaluate its feasibility and reliability. The significance of the need for such tool is evidently a transferable phenomenon that requires further investigation if to be proposed for mainstream CRN development.



Contacts

1. Jessica Taylor, Research Sister

Addenbrooke's Clinical Research Centre, NIHR/Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility Box 127 Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Addenbrooke's Hospital | Hills Road | Cambridge | CB2 0QQ Email: jessica.taylor@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

2. Caroline Saunders, Head of Clinical Operations

References

Pick, A. et al. 2011. 'The role of the research nurse', *Nursing Times*, 107, pp. 1-2.

Sandhu, K. 2014. *From Expert to Novice: Role Transition from Nurse to Clinical Research Nurse* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.crgcp.org/content/2014/06/18/expert-novice-role-transition-nurse-clinical-research-nurse/> [Accessed 23 January 2017]