



Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Collaborative Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement

Research Champions and Cafés Strategy Document 2019-2022

August 2019

**PROUD
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**
SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS
NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Purpose	5
3. Research Champions	6
4. Research Cafés	7
5. Metrics	7
6. References	9
7. Appendix 1	
8. Appendix 2	

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The number of people getting involved in research studies is increasing, and to help ensure that this trend continues, it is important to continue to improve the awareness of ongoing research opportunities.

Clinical Research is core business for the NHS and is included in the NHS Constitution for England.

“The NHS aspires to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism...and through its commitment to innovation and to the promotion, conduct and use of research to improve the current and future health and care of the population.”

- **NHS Constitution for England (2015)**

Despite Clinical Research being part of core business for the NHS, historically, it has been difficult to demonstrate that research not only has academic benefits but is directly associated with improved patient outcomes. A growing body of evidence from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of health and social care in England, is now demonstrating that research-active hospitals provide better patient outcomes. A recent study of over 200,000 patients with colorectal cancer, in 150 trusts, found that patients treated in hospitals where research participation was high, had a mortality rate in the first 30 days after major surgery of 5%, and a survival rate at five years of over 44%, compared to mortality of over 6% and 5 year survival of 41% for trusts with no / little research activity [5]. This work shows that even patients who are not involved in the trials themselves benefit from being in research-active hospitals.

1.2. Prioritising Involvement and Engagement in Research

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STH NHS FT) is committed to promoting and facilitating **Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)** in research, **and raising the research profile** at STH NHS FT, as outlined in the Research & Innovation Strategy 2018-2020:

- **Patient and Public Involvement** in research, includes providing advice on what research should be funded and helping to prioritise and design new research studies,

and develop research materials. This involvement is imperative to the development of new and improved treatments / services and is more likely to produce results that can have a beneficial effect on the health and social care provided.

- Involvement in research is defined as research being carried out 'with' or 'by' members of the public and not 'to', 'about', or 'for' them [1].
- **Raising the research profile** of STH NHS FT can be achieved through continued Patient and Staff Engagement.
- **Engagement** is where information and knowledge about research is provided and disseminated (INVOLVE [1]).

The STH Collaborative Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Group (CPPIE) was founded in 2017; the group comprises of representatives from the Clinical Research & Innovation Office (CRIO), the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Facility (CRF), the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), Devices for Dignity, the Cancer Clinical Trials Centre and the Trust Research Matron, with the aim to support the STH NHS FT Research & Innovation Strategy [2] and the 5 national, strategic priorities for involvement and engagement:

- **Voice** - to ensure patients, carers and the public have a voice in how the NIHR works
- **Feedback** - to ensure patients, carers and the public get feedback on how they have made a difference
- **Standards** - to define what good public involvement and engagement looks like
- **Impact / Getting results** - to understand and show the impact of public involvement and engagement
- **Invention** - to test new ideas in public involvement and engagement and share the learning

The NIHR has already set up a partnership with the public, researchers and others to achieve a vision to advance NHS public health and social care research and improve the health and well-being of the population. This partnership is called INVOLVE [1].

INVOLVE will work to:

- **Maximise** the opportunity for public involvement,
- **Learn** and share knowledge and experience of involvement

- **Support** inclusion, diversity and equity, actively supporting involvement of groups who are often excluded
- Make its work **accessible**
- **Strengthen** and build upon existing work by INVOLVE and others

INVOLVE recognises that there is an important distinction between the perspectives of the public and the perspectives of people who have a professional role in health and social care services. In 2014, the NIHR published a strategic 5 year plan named 'Promoting a Research Active Nation' [4] to encourage public engagement and participation in health, social care and public health research. The plan set out a range of initiatives including the NIHR "Ok to ask", and "I Am Research" campaigns, which aim to promote the benefits of clinical research to health professionals, patients and the public and to grow the number of people taking part in research by making sure that:

- There are **more opportunities** to take part in research
- That people can access **better information** and tools such as the UK Clinical Trials Gateway to find out about studies relevant to them
- That people have **positive experiences** of taking part in research

2. Purpose

The development of the Research Champion role has recently come to fruition at STH NHS FT. The aims of this role are to capture and engage staff within the directorates across the Trust, to spread the knowledge of **current research activities** and **promote patient involvement**. Likewise, we recognise the significant role that Research Cafés can have in providing a focal point for patients, staff and the public to find out about Clinical Research in a friendly and approachable environment.

Patient feedback via the NIHR Clinical Research Network 'Patient Research Experience Survey' has consistently demonstrated that over 80% of patients want to know about research. As a patient advocate, it is every nurse's professional responsibility to have knowledge of current research studies available for patients to participate in. The Research Champion will be able to provide the latest information on current clinical trials within their directorate and disseminate this in lay language to patients and the public through research

cafés. As such, the role of the Research Champion will be vital to meeting the overall strategic aim to embed research and innovation alongside clinical care.

The roles of Research Champions and Research Cafés are discussed in greater detail in sections 3 and 4, respectively.

The latest news on the CQC project is now published with the significant milestone of the publication of the 2018 update of the CQC Well Led Framework (Trusts) which includes new research markers (Section W8, see *appendix 2*) [6].

3. Research Champions

The Research Champion role is an opportunity for clinical staff with a passion for research to contribute to creating an environment which promotes engagement in research. This role is a key link between the research team, clinical staff and all service users. As an advocate for good clinical practice, this role will promote patient choice to be involved in research, working closely with the research team to share knowledge and information pertaining to current studies.

The champion will act as a resource, encouraging staff engagement and increasing the profile of research in their clinical area. This role will make a significant contribution to meeting national, Trust and an individual's personal objectives through appraisal and NMC revalidation.

Research is identified in the Five Year Forward View [7] as having a key part in narrowing unwarranted variation with aims of achieving better outcomes, better experiences and better use of resources. The nursing response to this is set out in the 'Leading Change Adding Value' report [8] as one of the 10 commitments:

"Commitment 7 - we will lead and drive research to evidence the impact of what we do."

- **NHS England**

Aligning with the above commitment, the Research Champion role will encompass clinical staff such as Ward or Clinic Nurses and Clinical Nurse Specialists and will support the objectives of the PPIE group. There are numerous staff within the organisation who are enthusiastic about research and may be keen to become involved. This role presents an opportunity for such staff to be identified and trained, with the role not only benefitting

patients involvement in research but also allowing staff to work on their professional development.

There are 2 ways that a Champion can be developed; this can be either identifying an area where a Champion would improve the patient involvement in research and subsequently highlight a position to be filled, or alternatively, where a person is interested in taking on the role. Appendix 1 outlines the required steps to implement the Research Champion role with examples of the forms/questionnaires that need to be completed. Actual copies of these will be provided by the Research Nurse upon initiation into the role.

4. Research Cafés

A Research 'Café' provides a focal point for patients, staff and the public to find out about Clinical Research in a friendly and approachable environment. These cafés will usually have some promotional information available and a key person whom would provide information on the topic of interest (i.e. current studies, historic studies, or opportunities to be involved).

The format of the research café would be tailored to the target audience. The target audience can be staff, patients or the public and the venue can vary greatly from staff rooms, reception areas or clinics; separate sessions can be held for the different audience groups e.g. clinical staff versus the general public. Light refreshments can also be provided, where possible.

The format of a Research Café is and can be fluid depending on the environment of the area hosting it. Additionally, they can be used to support speciality awareness raising days, which will be supported by the PPIE group through a 'calendar of events', and vice versa.

5. Metrics

It is essential to determine whether the introduction of a Research Champion into a directorate induces an enhanced uptake of interest and recruitment for research studies. Both qualitative and quantitative data will support the observed impact of the role and will consequently provide the necessary framework to support the inclusion and development of the role within the Trust.

Therefore, we have produced several outcome measures which will be recorded and assessed:

1. To demonstrate **increased recruitment** in studies that have been previously challenging to recruit to and reduce missed data.
 - A struggling study can be an indicator for the need to introduce the Champion role into an area
 - Prior to the identified Champion becoming active, a note will be made on the study log, CRFM or Edge noting the date the role became active and this will provide a time point to enable impact to be captured

2. To **satisfy** the desire of generic clinical staff to be involved in research and provide examples of benefits to nursing staff professional development.
 - This will be captured through completion of a yearly evaluation form

3. To demonstrate that patients are being **given the opportunity** to be involved in and choose research.
 - A simple survey will be completed by patients pre and post introduction of the champion in that area
 - This will be repeated to monitor on- going effectiveness of the role

4. To demonstrate the **utilisation** of champions role and cafés across the directorates
 - The CRIO will be informed when a Research Champion becomes active and will be recorded in RMS.
 - A simple survey will be sent to all nursing staff, asking if they are aware of Research Cafés within their directorate. This will be repeated at set intervals to capture increased activity and awareness.
 - The CRIO will keep a record of the Research Cafés taking place at STH and the foot fall at each.
 - The CRIO will maintain a calendar of national disease awareness days and this will feed into disease awareness raising events known to take place across the trust. This will steer the focus of engagement and research promotion and the utilisation of Research Cafés.

The staff member adopting the role of Research Champion will be expected to fulfil the function as per the 'Role and Responsibilities' document, which is outlined in section 3, and

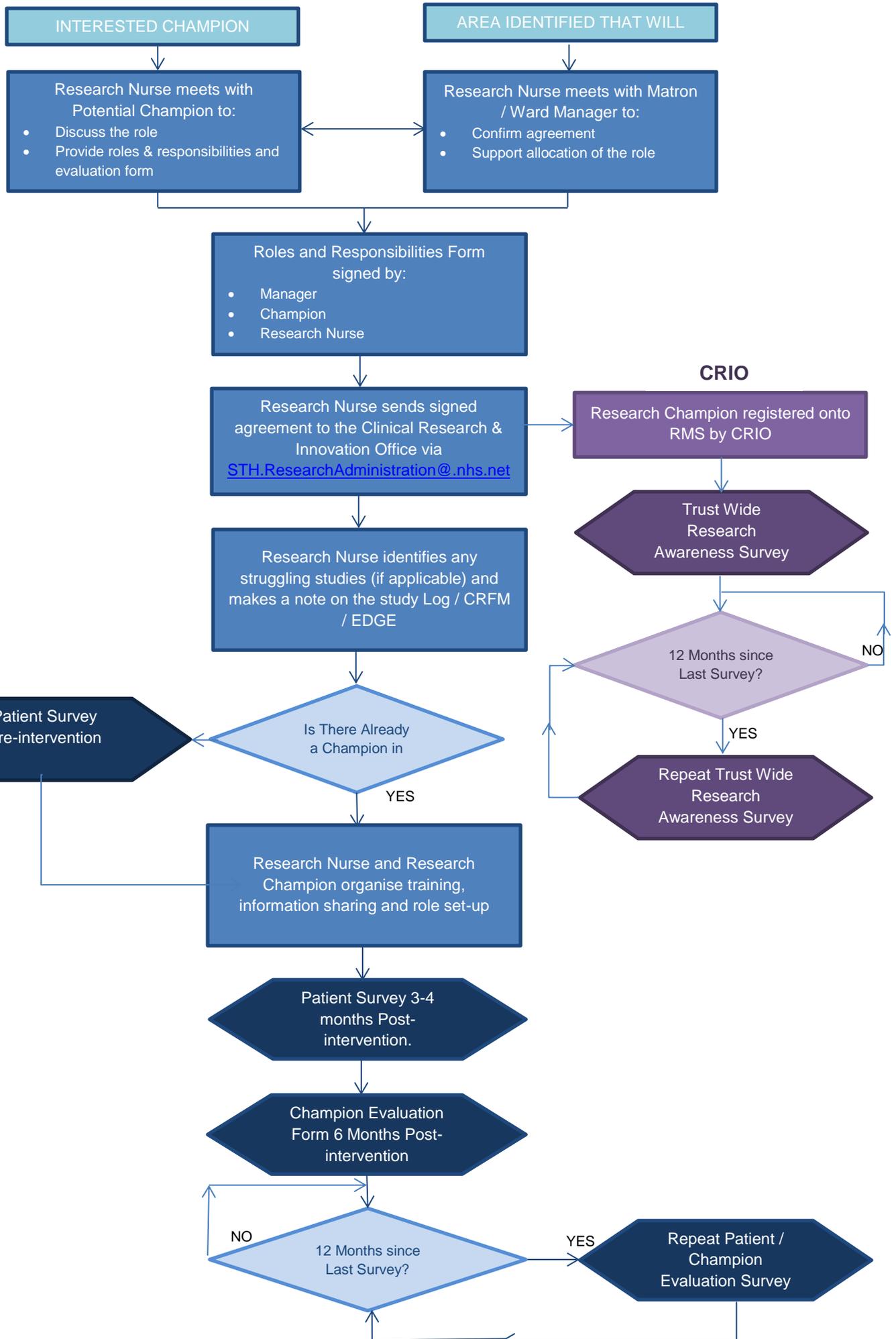
to the level agreed with their manager at the time of initiation. The role and responsibility document is required to be signed in order to gain a commitment from all parties to be active and engaged in the activities.

It is important to obtain feedback from the Research Champion about the role and how well the role has worked for them but also to enable the effectiveness of the role to be assessed and evaluated. An evaluation form will be completed six months after commencement of the role and then on a yearly basis thereafter by both the Research Champion and the respective Research Nurse. A copy will be retained by both and a copy sent to STH.ResearchAdministration@nhs.net so that feedback can be centrally collated.

6. References

- [1] NIHR INVOLVE. Link: <https://www.invo.org.uk/current-work/> [accessed 22/02/2019]
- [2] Clinical Research & Innovation Office, STH NHS FT (2018). Research & Innovation Strategy 2018-2020.
- [3] NIHR (2018). NIHR Central Commissioning Facility: Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Plan 2018/19.
- [4] NIHR (2014) Promoting a 'Research Active' Nation. A strategic plan for increasing citizen engagement and participation in health, social care and public health research (2014-2019).
- [5] Downing et al. (2017) High hospital research participation and improved colorectal cancer survival outcomes: a population-based study. Gut. 66(1):89-96.
- [6] Care Quality Commission (2018) Trust-wide Well-led Inspection Framework. Version 5.
- [7] NHS England (2014) Five Year Forward View.
- [8] NHS England (2016). Leading Change, Adding Value: A Framework for Nursing, Midwifery and Care Staff.

Outline of Required Steps to Implement Research Champions



Clinical Research Champion Role

Purpose

The Clinical Research Champion role is an opportunity for clinical staff with a passion for research to contribute to creating an environment which promotes engagement in research. This role is a key link between the research team, clinical staff and all service users and as such will be a vital support in meeting the overall aim to embed research and innovation alongside clinical care (STH 2012, Department of Health 2012). As an advocate for good practice this role will promote patient choice to be involved in research, working closely with the research team to share knowledge and information pertaining to current studies.

Background

The champion will act as a resource, encouraging staff engagement and increasing the profile of research in their clinical area. This role will make a significant contribution to meeting national, trust and your personal objectives through appraisal and NMC revalidation. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals aims to become one of the top R&D performers in England and Clinical Research is core business for the NHS and is part of the NHS constitution:

“The NHS aspires to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism...and through its commitment to innovation and to the promotion, conduct and use of research to improve the current and future health and care of the population.”

NHS Constitution for England (2015)

Research is identified in the Five Year Forward View (2014) as having a key part in narrowing unwarranted variation with aims of achieving better outcomes, better experiences and better use of resources. The nursing response to this is set out in Leading Change Adding Value (2016) as one of the 10 commitments that **“we will lead and drive research to evidence the impact of what we do”**.

Clinical Research Champion Role Roles and Responsibilities

Requirements for the role:

1. Have agreement from line manager to undertake the role
2. Have an interest in gaining knowledge about clinical research
3. Be willing to dedicate time to clinical research within your area of work
4. Have an understanding of the trusts research agenda and the wider context of research for the NHS

5. Have good communication skills and be able to cascade and share information/updates related to clinical research with colleagues
6. Be able to work with Clinical Research Nurses to assist in promoting clinical research within your own area
7. Have a passion for ensuring good practice in being an advocate for patient choice

Responsibilities of the role:

1. Be willing to attend Good Clinical Practice training and keep this up to date
2. Be willing to keep up to date knowledge of current active studies and with changes in clinical research for their area, by meeting regularly with a member of the Research Nurse. There will be opportunities for shadowing in the CRF (1 shift per year).
3. To help create a clinical research environment by promoting, motivating and encouraging a culture which is research active
4. To support and contribute to Research Cafes in your area
5. To liaise with research staff to aid identification of patients for clinical trials
6. To actively promote involvement in research to all service users
7. To act as a resource and be a point of contact for staff queries around active studies in their area
8. Where agreed, participate in clinical research under the supervision of the research nurse/midwife (activities must be outlined in the delegation log)

You are required to liaise with:

Patients, service users & their families
Research Nurses/Midwife/AHP
Clinical Research Champion Representative
Research Matron and Lead Nurse for R&D
Principle Investigators
Colleagues in own clinical work area and speciality

This forms an agreement for the Research Champions role to be supported in:

Care Group: (please Circle) A&EM/CCAG/H&N/LEGION/MAPS/MSK/OSSCA/SCMR/SS/SYRS

Directorate: (list all applicable)/...../.....

Management Agreement

I agree to support this staff member to fulfil the requirements of the above role and responsibilities

Name: **Sign:** **Date:**

Research Nurse Agreement

I agree to facilitate this role and to maintain two-way communication with the Research Champion to build a research culture in their area

Name: **Sign:** **Date:**

Research Champion Agreement

I agree to engage with the research nurse and team to fulfil the above role and responsibilities and to complete an evaluation of the role on a yearly basis

Name: **Sign:** **Date:**

This form should be signed by all parties and a copy retained by each. The Research Nurse should also please send a copy to STH.ResearchAdministration@nhs.net. This will be held securely with in the Clinical Research and Innovation Office and used only for the purpose of monitoring role effectiveness and communication with the above signatories.

Research, do people know it happens at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust?

		Yes	No
1	Are you aware that Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust undertakes clinical research?		
2	Have you ever been asked to take part in a research study?		
3	Would you be interested in taking part in a research study?		

Research, do people know it happens at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust?

		Yes	No
1	Are you aware that Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust undertakes clinical research?		
2	Have you ever been asked to take part in a research study?		
3	Would you be interested in taking part in a research study?		

Research, do people know it happens at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust?

		Yes	No
1	Are you aware that Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust undertakes clinical research?		
2	Have you ever been asked to take part in a research study?		
3	Would you be interested in taking part in a research study?		

Personal Evaluation: Research Champion

This form is for your personal evaluation and reflection on your role as a Research Champion. This evidence can be submitted as part of your areas training requirements but also primarily as part of your personal portfolio and revalidation.

Periods for evaluation: Initial, 6 months then yearly.

Name of Research Champion	
Supervisor	
Date of evaluation:	
Area of work	

Section 1

<p>When did you become a Research Champion:</p>
<p>What activities have you been involved in to promote good research activity and care within your clinical area?</p>
<p>What resources have you found particularly useful in your role?</p>
<p>Have you encountered any difficulties within your role and how have you overcome these?</p>
<p>Is there anything that you need in terms of resources or support to help you provide more support/information to your role as Research Champion?</p>

Section 2

Supervisor feedback:

Recommendations for practice:

Action Plan for next evaluation meeting:

REFLECTIVE ACCOUNTS FORM

You must use this form to record five written reflective accounts on your CPD and/or practice-related feedback and/or an event or experience in your practice and how this relates to the code. Please fill in a page for each of your reflective accounts, making sure you do not include any information that might identify a specific patient, service user or colleague. Please refer to our guidance on preserving anonymity in Guidance sheet 1 in *How to revalidate with the NMC*.

Reflective account:

What was the nature of the CPD activity and/or practice-related feedback and/or event or experience in your practice?

What did you learn from the CPD activity and/or feedback and/or event or experience in your practice?

How did you change or improve your practice as a result?

How is this relevant to the Code?

- Select one or more themes: Prioritise people, Practice effectively, Preserve safety, Promote professionalism and trust