

Research Briefing November 2025

News and Events

- **Inclusion and community research seminars**-The Inclusion and Community Research theme at the [University of East Anglia](#) warmly invites all those interested in community-based research and inclusive research methods to an informal virtual meeting. See the upcoming sessions below and register using the button below:
 - **Thursday 18 December 2026, 14:00 - 15:00:** [Alex Kaley](#) will present [her project](#) exploring reproductive (in)justice in the lives of people with learning disabilities. To register, email using the button below.
 - **Wednesday 21 January 2026, 12:00 - 13:00:** [Professor Gwyneth Boswell](#) will share her research into violent young offenders, both in the UK and abroad.
[Please register here.](#)

New Funding and Training opportunities

- Applications for the [ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship 2026](#) are now open. Our flagship programme offers people working in health, care and voluntary service settings an opportunity to develop research and impact skills to undertake a project. No previous research experience is necessary.
- Funding for strategic and wider care settings. [The NIHR Research Delivery Network](#) has announced [two funding streams](#): strategic funding and wider care settings funding. These aim to support strategic projects that enable inclusive health and care research and support the [Government's three shifts](#): hospital to community, sickness to prevention, and analogue to digital. NHS Trusts and organisations in wider care settings can apply.

New Research

- **Share your story about illness, end-of-life care and insecure housing** [The University of Cambridge Department of Public Health and Primary Care \(PHPC\)](#) is asking people with lived experience of serious illness, end-of-life care, or bereavement in poor, insecure, or temporary housing [to get in touch](#) with [Dr Melissa Fielding](#) to share your experience.
- [Shape the use of genomic information for population health](#) -If you work with genetic information in public health, primary or community care settings, think-tank RAND Europe and Genomics England want to hear your views. Genomics is one of the 5 key digital technologies to drive innovation that ICBs are expected to build into strategic commissioning and population health improvement plans. Complete this short [survey](#) - CPD points available!
- [First men recruited to landmark prostate cancer screening trial](#) The first men are being recruited to a landmark trial kicking off the biggest prostate cancer screening study in a generation. The £42m TRANSFORM screening trial is co-funded by Prostate Cancer UK (PCUK) and NIHR and is the most ambitious prostate cancer study in decades.
- [UK is first country in Europe to open MS treatment trial](#) A new vaccine clinical trial which targets a potential underlying cause of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is underway in the UK. The Horizon trial is led by the [University of Edinburgh](#), is sponsored by pharmaceutical company Moderna and is supported by the UK Vaccine Innovation Pathway. The trial is investigating whether vaccination against a common virus found in almost all people with multiple sclerosis (MS) could help treat the condition.
- [Exploring lived experiences to help shape future care for next-generation weight management medications](#) A new study led by [Dr Marie Spreckley](#) is exploring the lived experiences of people using next-generation weight management medications. [AMPLIFY \(Amplifying Meaningful Perspectives and Lived experiences of Incretin therapy use From diverse community voices\)](#) aims to bring the voices of patients to the forefront of research and inform future clinical and public-health practice.

Research Findings and Reports

- [Research with ARC East of England shows how using screening tools and including information reported by individuals and families can improve access to appropriate clinical autism assessments.](#) Findings suggest that combining personal accounts from individuals (self-reported) and developmental history from their families or caregivers (informant-reported) early in the process can help decide which type of clinical assessment is required. This can support clinical decision-making about who would benefit most from standard or enhanced assessments, and who may need further examination.
- [New NIHR School for Primary Care Research \(SPCR\) Study Highlights How to Support GPs for Better Patient Care](#) This study is the first to explore how the way general practice services are organised affects GP workforce sustainability. It highlights that meaningful work, strong professional relationships, and opportunities for learning and development are central to GP retention. Conversely, challenges such as rigid systems, professional isolation, and poorly designed technologies can threaten workforce sustainability.
- [People with eczema can bathe as often as they want, research shows](#) People with eczema often have questions about the best way to bathe, including how often to have a bath or shower. Findings from the 'Eczema Bathing study', published in [The British Journal of Dermatology](#), show they can choose how often to wash, without having to worry about drying out their skin or making symptoms worse.
- [Risk of rare heart complications in children higher after COVID-19 infection than after vaccination](#) Children and young people faced long-lasting and higher risks of rare heart and inflammatory complications after COVID-19 infection, compared to before or without an infection, according to new research. Meanwhile COVID-19 vaccination was only linked to a short-term higher risk of myocarditis and pericarditis.
- [Neck scan could detect the risk of heart failure in older men](#) The carotid ultrasound uses a small handheld device moved over the neck to scan the arteries underneath. When over 1,600 men aged between 71-92 received the scan, it showed the 'flexibility' of their carotid arteries - how much they stretch and expand with each heartbeat. It found that the quarter of men with the least flexible carotid arteries were 2.5 times more likely to develop heart failure than those with the most flexible carotid arteries.
- [Neighbourhood deprivation linked to brain vessel damage and higher dementia risk](#) Research published in [Alz & Dem; 5 Nov 2025](#), shows how it is associated with damage to brain vessels – which can affect cognition – and with poorer management of lifestyle factors known to increase the chances of developing dementia.
- [Radiotherapy after mastectomy can be avoided](#) as it does not affect long-term survival, new research finds. An international trial found that patients with early-stage breast cancer who underwent a mastectomy (breast removal) and were taking anti-cancer drugs had similar 10-year survival rates, whether or not they received radiotherapy. Experts say the findings should help guide treatment discussions, as many patients may not actually need radiotherapy.
- [Wearable technology orthopaedic research shortlisted for national award](#) A project to support patients with their hip and knee replacement recovery using wearable technology has been shortlisted for a national innovation award. The UEA Health Economics team and the Orthopaedic Clinical Research team at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and have been shortlisted with Dynamic Metrics Ltd for the Collaborate to Innovate Awards. The GaitSmart study ran at NNUH between 2020 and 2022 to develop and test a system to study mobility and improve a patient's gait after a joint replacement.
- [The severity of a diarrhoeal disease could be down to the bacteria in your gut – according to new research from the University of East Anglia](#) Cryptosporidiosis is responsible for over 100,000 deaths annually – predominantly in children under five. It also affects animals, and a new study published today shows that large animals – including primates - with less different kinds of bacteria in their gut are the more severely affected. It reveals that introducing more diverse gut bacteria can improve outcomes – including reducing diarrhoea and potential for the disease to spread.