

NIHR CRN reports attitudes, appetites and acceptance

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Is the NHS ready for the biosimilars boom? To most, biosimilars are a no-brainer. But as with anything new, there are early adopters and sceptics. The NIHR CRN is an independent, government-funded organization which supports delivery of the majority of clinical research in England - and with that comes unique insight. The NIHR CRN can report that attitudes, appetites and acceptance in relation to biosimilars in the UK are changing. Despite being approximately ten years ahead of the US our approach and acceptance of biosimilar drugs, in 2015 it came to light, some commercial trial sponsors were overlooking the UK as a destination for biosimilar trials - claiming that the appetite for delivering these types of trials was low. The NIHR Clinical Research Network was drafted to sharpen the UK's competitive edge. In this presentation we will reveal why life science companies were overlooking the UK to deliver their trials, and how these challenges are being overcome using the Clinical Research Network structure which is unique to the NHS in England. Companies can now continue to place their biosimilar trial in UK with confidence and get ahead of the game when it comes to study set-up, feasibility, and patient recruitment. This presentation will present a range of perspectives (via video clips) which illustrate how the UK's appetite, capacity and capabilities to deliver biosimilar clinical trials have developed in parallel with the expansion of the biosimilars market. You will hear from those involved in conducting biosimilar trials - the clinicians, investigators and nurses at the coal face of research delivery in the NHS. We've also captured the NHS Trust R&D viewpoint, along with some thoughts from the NHS pharmacy team. The British Biosimilar Association offers up some interesting ideas, but probably the most memorable perspective is that of the patient.

Note: This work is partly presented at Webinar on Clinical Pharmacy, going to be held on May 31st, 2021 GMT+1.