

Peer Review



Trial Planning Phase

The Peer Review station follows the Funding Proposal station and precedes the Funding Secured station. This process occurs in parallel with Protocol Development. Peer Review is good practice and is relevant to all trials. This station is part of the 'trial planning phase' group of stations.

Peer Review

Peer review involves an evaluation of the proposed trial by experts to assess key aspects, such as the quality of the design, feasibility, acceptability, and the importance of the research topic. In this context, 'experts' typically include relevant clinicians, allied health professionals, methodologists, and other professional groups, as well as patients and members of the public.

Responsibilities include maintaining confidentiality, declaring any conflicts of interest, and providing constructive, specific feedback focused on the scientific content. For external peer reviewers, the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has published [guidance on the role of a peer reviewer](#).

For trials seeking external funding, peer review is usually conducted as part of the funding application process. If external funding is not required and peer review has not occurred through the funding process, the sponsoring organisation can facilitate the necessary peer review.

Both the trial approval and [NIHR Portfolio adoption](#) (if applicable) require evidence of peer review by appropriate experts.

Further Reading

- [NIHR](#): Become a Peer Reviewer webpage.
- [NIHR Reviewer Development Scheme](#): For early-career researchers or professionals wishing to develop their reviewing skills.
- [NIHR](#): A Guide to Becoming a Peer Reviewer.