

Meet Sharon

Research & Development

Hi, my name is Sharon. I am a Clinical Research Nurse at the Royal United Hospitals Bath. Find out more about me and what I do below.



What do you do?

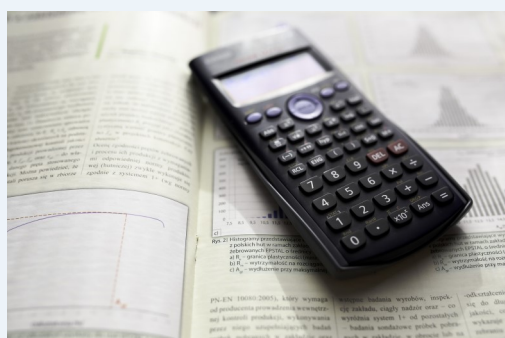
I work across two research and development roles. For three days a week, I work as the Pain Lead Research Nurse where I lead and organise pain research.

For two days a week, I work as a **70@70 Senior Research Nurse for the National Institute for Health Research**. This role aims to develop research opportunities and raise the profile of research amongst nurses and midwives. I also work on broader projects with a national reach.

See a word in **bold** and not sure what it means? Check out the [glossary](#) on the last page

Describe a typical day

My job is very varied. I plan the design of studies, for example I consider the best ways to collect data. I work with patients to gather their feedback about what research topics are important to them. I submit applications for **funding**. I analyse results and share findings with journals.



It is great to work as part of an **interdisciplinary team**. I **collaborate** with my colleagues at the

hospital and with other researchers nationally and internationally. I also find it really satisfying mentoring others.



What are the best parts of your job?



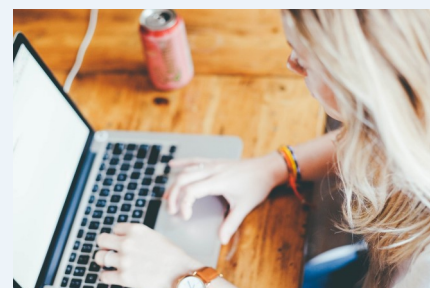
Research is rewarding. It is at the centre of healthcare and helps to drive improvements to patient care. For example, as part of my research, I can offer patients new treatments that they would otherwise be unable to access.

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How have you had to adapt during the pandemic?

I have had to find new ways of working but thanks to **remote technology**, some of my studies have been able to continue.

The COVID-19 pandemic has helped to speed up research processes. My colleagues and I have had to react quickly and introduce many new studies about COVID-19. It has been great to be part of the team overseeing studies that investigate how the COVID-19 virus is transmitted as well as assess the effectiveness of treatments and vaccines.



How did you become a Clinical Research Nurse?

I liked science at school and decided to train as an adult nurse. Whilst working at the Mineral Hospital in Bath, I became interested in research and when a Clinical Research Nurse role came up, I applied and was successful for the post. During my career, I have been fortunate to have some fantastic **role models** who have mentored me. I have also taken up opportunities when I have been offered them.

In terms of qualifications, I gained a Masters in Clinical Research through part-time study. As my career has developed, I have been involved in a number of studies and developed a **portfolio** of work which I used when studying for my **research DPhil**. In September 2020, I gained my doctorate.

A career in research is rewarding, fascinating and challenging



What are your next steps in your career?



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I would like to pursue my own research interests and raise the profile of the research that takes place at the RUH. I also want to continue to support other nurses and midwives to get involved in research.

What advice or tips would you give somebody interested in becoming a Clinical Research Nurse?

To become a Clinical Research Nurse, you should have an interest in health and health science, be able to pay attention to detail and think critically as well as be curious, organised and methodical.



After training as a nurse, try to look for opportunities and **secondments** in research. Keep updated about the latest developments by reading journal papers and network with colleagues by joining a research network at your hospital.

Want further information?

- ⇒ Visit the **Health Careers** website (bit.ly/3u95k6X)
- ⇒ Visit the **Nursing and Midwifery Council** website (bit.ly/32ZPIHf)
- ⇒ Visit the **National Institute for Health Research** website (bit.ly/3b8WmPT)
- ⇒ Visit **NHS jobs** to search and apply for vacancies at the RUH (www.jobs.nhs.uk)



- ⇒ If you have any other questions or you need this document in an alternative format, please contact us at ruh-tr.careersengage@nhs.net or call **01225 824281** or **01225 821542**



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Glossary	
70@70 Senior Research Nurse for the National Institute for Health Research	The 70@70 programme was setup as part of the 70th anniversary of the NHS. There are 70 Research Nurses and Midwives working across the country to promote the role of research nurses and midwives
Collaborate	To work with others
Funding	A supply of money
Interdisciplinary team	A group made up of different professionals
Portfolio	A collection of work
Remote technology	Tools used to connect with individuals virtually for example, video-conferencing software
Research DPhil	Doctorate qualification awarded by a university
Role model	Somebody who sets a good example and is admired by others
Secondment	A period of time where an employee will temporarily work in a role in another department or organisation

