

## **CQC Draft Strategy for Discussion**

**NHS R&D Forum response: Research inclusion as a critical role in quality, safety and improvement. This is an opportunity to improve the health and care environment for research.**

The following response was uploaded to the [CQC website](#) on November 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 as an initial statement for consideration prior to the formal consultation period, which will begin in January 2021.

As a professional network we are pleased to see the strategy aim to improve support for organisations, flexible pragmatic regulation, learning from excellence, peer sharing and the acknowledgement of people and human factors. We therefore welcome the first stages of the document and acknowledge that it is for the inspectorate rather than organisations or providers of health and care.

We do however believe that the pillars identified for advocacy would be strengthened further by the inclusion of research, and that it would be a missed opportunity not to promote the vital role of research in ensuring the quality, safety and improvement of health and care, when it is most needed.

The inclusion of research, in the current well-led pillar, has been extremely well received by our community and we hope that this will continue to be reflected. However the CQC now has the opportunity to lead the way and show how research activity can, and should be, integrated into health and care organisations and systems for the benefit of all by integrating research into the essence of its own strategy; bridging the gaps between research, quality improvement and care.

The NHS R&D Forum is a UK-wide professional network for the research management, support and leadership community in health and care. We will continue to feed into the strategy development process and would welcome further discussion and opportunity to engage.

**People:** The services people expect and need should include research active services and research enabled care. There should be support for a culture of research activity and access to research opportunities.

**Standards of quality and safety** should include references to research as a key enabler.

**Making improvement happen** Regulating innovation and technology will require ensuring evaluation and research is possible and enabling a culture of improvement and innovation should also require a culture of research.