Frequently asked questions

Updated January 2026.

If you require any guidance documents in an alternative format, please contact us by email at HRCengagement@uhb.nhs.uk.

Where can I find the collaborative project proposal form and guidance?

The form and guidance are available for download on the Resource library page on our website. Completed forms should be sent to HRCengagement@uhb.nhs.uk by the 11.59pm, Thursday 12 March 2026.

How much information should I include in the form?

Please include high-level, concise information to address the questions in the form. More detail can be added or discussed during the presentation meeting; the objective of the form is to help us understand if the proposed project is within scope, feasible and aligns with our core themes.

I'm not sure what kind of support I need.

If you are not sure about support you might need, please watch our webinar recording for information about our services and how we can support the development of health technologies. Use the objectives section of the form to outline your key aims from a collaborative project and the types of support you are interested in, and if you would need further guidance on the development of work packages. You can also find information about our services on the Our services page on our website.

Can we develop work packages for multiple services within the same project?

Yes, projects can include multiple services such as usability testing, health economics and patient and public involvement and engagement.

I'm not sure what funding calls I could apply for.

If you are seeking grant funding please indicate this on the proposal form and state which grant funding schemes you are considering applying for. If you require support identifying relevant schemes, include this in the objectives / work packages section.

What is difference between a formative and a summative usability study?

Formative studies are conducted early in technology development using prototypes to support the design process. The tests are conducted with a small number of users in a realistic environment (not on real patients) to identify challenges and opportunities for

improvements of the technology. The findings from these studies are then used to develop the design and functionality of the device.

Summative usability studies are conducted on the final version of the device or technology with a larger number of real end users. All previous user errors from formative tests should have been addressed in this final prototype. These studies aim to generate evidence to show the device can be used safely and meets user requirements.

I don't have a prototype for my health technology yet. Can we still collaborate or is there a minimum TRL requirement?

We support technologies from very early stages and across the TRL levels. There are no minimum TRL requirements. For more definitions of the TRLs, please refer to our written guidance.

I have a market-ready technology, can you support with NHS procurement?

We do not support NHS procurement or the commercialisation of market-ready products.

How soon can we start a project?

We aim to hold project kick-off meetings during the week of Monday 20 April for proposals that proceed to a collaboration, within which we will discuss timelines, objectives and work packages.

Is there funding available from the HRC-DDR?

We are able to support some pump-priming work on a case-by-case basis to strengthen funding applications through in-kind services. We support the submission of funding applications as a co-applicant.

Do you support micro-startups?

Yes, we support micro-startups and technology developers from across the healthcare sector.