NIHR CLAHRC South West Peninsula

PenCHORD

Delivering Operational Research and Modelling services to the NHS

The Peninsula Collaboration for Health Operational Research and Development (PenCHORD) are a team of specialists helping healthcare professionals and patients make informed decisions about change in the NHS using operational research methods.

As part of PenCLAHRC, PenCHORD works closely with health service organisations to address a wide range of challenges. For example, computer models can be used to simulate how a service is currently run and then identify where changes might be made without risk to patients. This allows NHS teams to gain a much better understanding of potential impacts before changes are implemented, providing an incredibly agile way of introducing new systems and ways of working.

Professor Martin Pitt, Director of PenCHORD, wants to encourage NHS staff to get in touch:

"We want to ensure that our research makes a real difference to NHS services and ultimately patient care. Modelling techniques can be immensely powerful in supporting the decision-making process and we're always eager to hear from anyone involved in healthcare who might have a problem that we can help with, regardless of its size or scope."
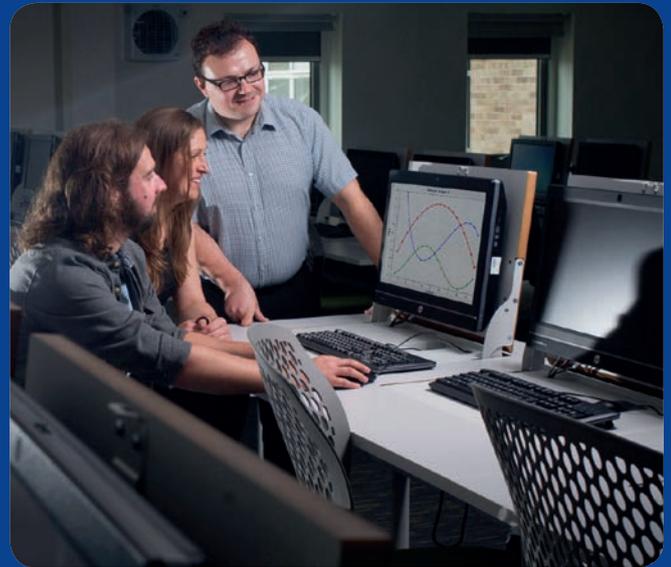
What we do

Using a wide range of operational research techniques, PenCHORD undertakes projects in many different areas of the NHS. Typical projects might include comparing alternative patient pathways through a service, or looking at patient access and service location across a geographical area and testing what improvements could be made.

PenCHORD also runs a series of showcase and training events for those working in and around the NHS, to talk about how operational research can help improve services. These initiatives include a series of training courses for those wishing to learn how to build simple but effective predictive models in their own organisations, as well as the Health Service Modelling Associates (HSMA) Programme, which aims to build capacity within NHS organisations to undertake their own operational research.

Areas of expertise:

- Modelling patient pathways and the impact of proposed changes
- Capacity and resource planning in acute and community services
- Waiting list management and patient scheduling
- Modelling where to place services and the impact of service closures

Contact us:

To find out more about the team and the work we do please visit the PenCHORD webpages:

clahrc-peninsula.nihr.ac.uk/penchord
penclahrc.exposure.co/healthcare-modelling

Email us: PenCHORD@exeter.ac.uk
Follow us: @PenCLAHRCOR