

# Lone Working and Personal Security in the King's Clinical Research Facility

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Authorised by	Professor Peter Goadsby, CRF Director
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06 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amended text in SOP title from "Clinical Research Facilities" to "King's Clinical Research Facility"</li> <li>Amended name of Director to reflect new Director</li> <li>Amended logos to update to current CRF letterhead template</li> <li>Amended document number from CRF SOP015 to CRF-ADMG-SOP-3 to comply with QPulse document numbering</li> <li>Amended numbers of documents referred to throughout the text to reflect revised QPulse/CRF numbers</li> </ol>	E Giemza

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Removed KCH risk assessment template and KCH Lone Working Checklist as appendices as documents available on KCH intranet</li> <li>7. Added sections 5.7.12 and 5.7.16 to detail use and location of "ID card style" pinpoint alarm transmitters in Clinical Trials Facility</li> </ol>	
August 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Addition of a procedure for out-of-hours patient visits in the CRF (Section 5.5)</li> <li>2. Addition of the current online Risk Assessment process via the Datix system (Section 5.6)</li> <li>3. Section 5.8: Update to the location of the PINPOINT call buttons (EMF) and other devices (CTF)</li> <li>4. Minor administrative amendments to text</li> </ol>	E. Giemza
August 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minor administrative amendments to text for clarity</li> <li>2. Sections 5.2, 5.3,5.4: Updated procedure for risk assessments for CRF staff and CRF users</li> <li>3. Updated relevant documents (KCH policies)</li> </ol>	E. Giemza
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Review History		
Date	Review details	Approved by
06 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	Review of v1.0 conducted by Lara Edwards, CRF QA Manager, superseded by v2.0 (effective date 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2014)	E Giemza
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October 2021	Review of v4.0 conducted by Angelina Twumasi, CRF QA Manager, as per the review date. Changes made as per 'Change History' and re-issued as v5.0	E. Giemza

## 1.0 Background

1.1 The King's Clinical Research Facility (CRF) is generally staffed Monday-Friday, 08.30-18.00hrs. Lone working of personnel in the CRF, both core CRF staff and users of the CRF, may sometimes be necessary in order to conduct work outside of these hours and also to accommodate personnel who work varying hours. 'Users' of the CRF include: research nurses, clinicians, radiographers, research assistants, students and psychiatrists (this list is not exhaustive).

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1.2 To mitigate any risk to personnel working alone in the CRF, all CRF staff and users of the CRF must be aware of their individual responsibilities, the potential risks and hazards they may be exposed to and how to ensure their own safety when working alone. The King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's (KCH) lone working and security policies and Health and Safety policy must be adhered to at all times, as well as all relevant CRF Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and policies.

## 2.0 Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the procedures and systems which are in place for lone working and personal security within the CRF.

## 3.0 Scope

3.1 This SOP applies to all core CRF staff and all users of the CRF.

3.2 The CRF consists of the Experimental Medicine Facility (EMF), Clinical Trials Facility (CTF) and Cellular Therapy Unit (CTU). This SOP is applicable to staff working in the EMF and CTF only, as the CTU maintains and controls its own SOPs to ensure compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). For CTU staff, lone working procedures and specific responsibilities with regards to security are detailed in separate CTU documents.

## 4.0 Responsibilities

4.1 All lone working staff within the CRF are required to take reasonable care, be aware of any potential risks involved and to be aware of their own health and safety. No CRF staff member or CRF user may commence lone working without prior approval from the CRF Manager.

4.2 The CRF Manager and CRF Quality Assurance (QA) Manager have a responsibility to ensure that: a risk assessment is conducted prior to any personnel (core staff and CRF users) working alone in the CRF, all personnel have been provided with this SOP and all personnel are aware of the CRF's security procedures, including the emergency security system (PINPOINT).

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4.3 KCH has a legal duty to ensure that the appropriate training, policies and (where appropriate) equipment is provided to ensure that staff are able to work safely as lone workers.

## **5.0 Procedure**

5.1 All CRF staff and users of the CRF must ensure that they are familiar with the CRF procedures for lone working and also on the use of the PINPOINT system. Training will be provided as part of the local CRF induction for both core staff and CRF users.

5.2 A Risk Assessment must be completed for all episodes of lone working in the CRF. These will be completed by the CRF's QA Manager via the KCH Datix system, to ascertain the risk of that staff member working alone. The KCH Lone Working On-Site Risk Assessment form (<http://kingsdocs/Pages/Home.aspx>) must be also be completed and uploaded onto Datix. The risk assessment will consider where the staff member will be working, access to a telephone and/or PINPOINT to call for assistance and any appropriate training which has been provided (eg: fire safety, health and safety). It will also identify any potential risks or concerns.

### **5.3 Core CRF Staff:**

- All episodes of lone working must be agreed with the CRF Manager prior to any CRF staff member working alone in the CRF, to ensure that a risk assessment is carried out and that action is taken to minimise any significant risks.
- Risk assessments for 'one-off' lone working sessions will be performed on an as-required basis and approved by the CRF Manager.
- Risk assessments for regular, planned out-of-hours lone working will be performed once, approved by the CRF Manager and reviewed every two years.

### **5.4 Users of the CRF:**

- Users of the CRF may occasionally need to conduct study visits outside of the CRF's normal working hours (eg: evenings and weekends) in order to accommodate a participant's availability.
- All users of the CRF must contact the CRF Manager/CRF QA Manager to request out-of-hours working, in advance of the study visit. This is to ensure

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that a risk assessment is completed when required and that out-of-hours access to the CRF is arranged where necessary.

- Where possible, researchers should arrange for another member of their study team to be in the CRF during the visit to avoid working alone with a study participant. Very occasionally it may be possible for a core member of CRF staff to provide this cover, but this must be discussed and agreed with the CRF Manager in advance.
- In situations where lone working with a study participant is unavoidable, the CRF Manager/CRF QA Manager will provide the CRF user with the KCH Lone Working On-Site Risk Assessment form which must be completed by the user and returned to the CRF.
- The CRF Manager and/or the CRF QA Manager will liaise with the CRF user regarding any risks identified in the risk assessment and will work with the CRF user to minimise any significant risks.
- The CRF QA Manager will enter the risk assessment details onto Datix with the Risk Assessment form.

#### 5.5 PINPOINT:

- The PINPOINT security system is installed throughout the EMF and CTF (and CTU).
- **Experimental Medicine Facility (EMF):** In the EMF there are wall-mounted transmitters with orange call buttons (see **Figure A**) that can be used in the event of an immediate security risk that requires the attendance of the KCH security team. There are call buttons present in the following areas:
  - Ground Floor:** 4-bed ward, ITU and MRI suite
  - First Floor:** Reception, Nurses' Station, Interview Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Trial Procedures Room and Clinical Rooms 1 and 2
  - Second Floor:** Tea-point, QC laboratory and Write-Up Room
- They are activated in an emergency by pushing the orange call button which instantly relays a signal towards the Receiver Unit located with KCH Security which pinpoints the source of the alarm within the EMF.

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**Figure A: Orange PINPOINT call button units.** The example in the centre of Fig. A is the model installed in the EMF which includes an orange call button, reassurance LED and a disarm/reset key switch.

- Orange LED over-door lights are also positioned strategically over doors within the EMF to allow the Security team to easily locate the source of the alarm, see **Figure B:**



**Figure B: Orange LED over door lights.**

- **Clinical Trials Facility (CTF):** In the CTF there is a Personal Infrared Transmitter (or 'grenade') (see **Figure C**) available in the trial procedures area.
- There are also 'ID-style card' alarm transmitters which can be worn round the neck with a lanyard like a standard ID card. These are kept in the Nurse Manager's office in the ward area and if required, can be obtained through the CTF's Housekeeper or other CTF personnel.
- All devices can be moved throughout the CTF as necessary and carried with a staff member if required but they must be returned to their original locations after use.
- To activate the 'grenade-style' alarm transmitter, pull the retaining pin and this will send a coded infrared signal to Infrared Receiver Units instantly. These relay the alarm signal and the exact location of the personal paging transmitter to the KCH Security Desk, allowing KCH Security personnel to pinpoint the source of alarm within the CTF.

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**Figure C: Personal Infrared Transmitters ('grenades')**

- To activate the ID-style' alarm transmitter, press the round button at the back of the ID card. This will send a coded infrared signal to the Infrared Receiver Units instantly and relay the alarm signal to the KCH Security Desk.
- The PINPOINT system is tested regularly to ensure that it is working correctly and that the KCH security team receive the alarms and respond in a timely manner.

5.6 Any staff member who has any concerns whilst working alone in the CRF should contact KCH Security (**extn. 4567**). If an immediate response is required, KCH Security can be contacted on the emergency number (**extn. 2444**) or the PINPOINT alarm system should be triggered. Any worker who is verbally or physically abused, assaulted or threatened should immediately report the incident to KCH Security and should attend the Emergency Department if a physical injury has been sustained.

5.7 Any incident that meets the definition of an Adverse Incident (AI), as defined in the KCH Policy for the Management, Reporting, & Investigation of Adverse Incidents (including Serious Adverse Incidents), occurring in **any area within the CRF**, must be **reported** using the **KCH Incident Reporting Form**, as per KCH policy <http://datix/datix/live/index.php>

5.8 Non-KCH personnel who cannot access the KCH intranet to report an adverse incident via Datix must report the incident to a member of CRF staff as soon as possible, who will then report it via Datix.

## **6.0 Related documents & References**

6.1 <http://kingsdocs/Pages/Home.aspx>

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- 6.1.1 KCH Security of Lone Workers Policy
- 6.1.2 KCH Health and Safety Policy
- 6.1.3 KCH Policy for the Prevention and Management of Violence and Aggression
- 6.1.4 KCH Security Policy
- 6.1.5 KCH Lone Working On-Site Risk Assessment Form
- 6.1.6 KCH Policy for the Management, Reporting, & Investigation of Adverse Incidents (including Serious Incidents)
- 6.2 Risk Assessments and Adverse Incidents: <http://datix/datix/live/index.php?action=login>
- 6.3 CRF-HS-COP-1: King's CRF Health and Safety Code of Practice

## 7.0 List of Appendices

N/A

## 8.0 Approval and sign off

### Author:

Name: Angelina Twumasi

Position: CRF Quality Assurance Manager

Signature:

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### Approved by:

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Position: CRF Director

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