



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: CHITIN Project - INCA-Sun (Asthma Trial)

THEME:

Health & Social Care

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH)

€8,841,667.25

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Health
Northern Ireland

Department of Health
Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Public Health Agency,
Northern Ireland

PROJECT PARTNERS

Health Research Board,
Ireland

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[https://
research.hscni.net/chitin](https://research.hscni.net/chitin)



@CHITINProject

The Cross-border Healthcare Intervention Trials In Ireland Network (CHITIN) is a unique partnership between the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland and the Health Research Board in Ireland, who are working together to deliver 11 Healthcare Intervention Trials (HITs). The HITs will help prevent and cure illness and promote improved health and well-being. The INCA-SUN (INhaler Compliance Assessment in Symptomatic UNcontrolled asthma) project is just one of such interventions: a collaborative project between the Clinical Research Centre in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the CHITIN project.

The study was already established in six large teaching hospitals in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK. CHITIN funding enabled it to be implemented in four smaller, border region hospitals in Northern Ireland and Ireland, establishing relationships and overcoming obstacles at each site. The Northern Ireland sites included Altnagelvin Area Hospital and Craigavon Hospital and the Irish sites included Cavan General Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.

INCA-Sun is a 32-week study of uncontrolled asthma. There are two phases in the study, the first phase is where a nurse-led educational intervention is delivered. The second phase is where the physician reviews participants and adjusts medications, guided by feedback from the INCA technology or guideline directed clinical care. The personalised biofeed-



back on inhaler skills and adherence is generated using inhaler adherence technology. This is an emerging technology used in the field of asthma management. The scientific instrument used to generate this personalised biofeedback is the INCA™ (INhaler Compliance Assessment) device. It is attached to an inhaler which generates a digital audio recording each time the inhaler is used. This provides objective feedback of both when, and how the inhaler was used. This is used to educate and direct clinical care for participants.

By February 2020, the study had recruited a total of 220 participants across 10 sites within Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK. Patient study visits are due for completion in September 2020. To date, the INCA-Sun Study is the largest clinical investigation sponsored by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.