

Clinical Research in the Netherlands

Your hub for European
clinical trials

INVEST IN
Holland



Why choose the Netherlands for clinical trials?

The Netherlands is a European leader in clinical research and a hotspot for innovation in the life sciences and health sector. Home to top institutions, a high volume of trial initiations and among the most researchers per capita in Europe, the Netherlands offers a wealth of opportunity for sponsors and clinical researchers.

Academic excellence

The Netherlands is renowned for its dynamic, innovative and collaborative Life Sciences & Health ecosystem. This ecosystem houses robust networks of research groups anchored by seven University Medical Centers, all ranking in Europe's top 100. These scientific institutions foster a high density of key opinion leaders who proactively serve as principal investigators, supported by the experience of sponsors. Together they position the Netherlands as a global leader for scientific citations, ranking 2nd in the European research ecosystem competitiveness index. Institutions such as RadboudUMC, through its Technology Center (RTC), and UMC Utrecht, through its Trial alliance (U-Trial), partner with both industry and academic sponsors.

Ease of conducting clinical trials

Rooted in a century-old tradition of public-private partnerships, Dutch clinical trial stakeholders are easy to access and engage with, compared to the wider European landscape. Collaborative processes between research networks, regulators and ethical committees enable the Netherlands to lead in terms of first patient dosed and phase 1 and 2 trial enrollment for all therapeutic areas. In fact, in a recent Citeline benchmark, the Netherlands was only one of two European countries which approved an ATMP-study within 1 month.

Swift patient enrolment

The Netherlands ensures swift patient enrolment across a broad range of indicators in comparison with all other

European countries. For industry sponsored trials, the Netherlands outperforms other countries particularly in phase 1 and phase 4; meanwhile for academic trials, the Netherlands leads for phase 1 inclusion in Europe. With its advanced health coverage, information infrastructure and health-literate public, the Netherlands makes health care a priority. In general, patient uptake is high. This is beneficial for researchers. The patient population is highly organized through groups like the Netherlands Patients Federation, representing 200 patient organizations.

Comprehensive health care infrastructure

There is a high geographical coverage of hospitals across the Netherlands, an average of one hospital per five kilometers. This gives broad access to patients across the nation. Moreover, the number of physicians per capita is on the rise and that gives researchers advantageous availability of medical expertise and clinical trial resources.

Availability of patient data is another prerequisite for clinical trials. The Netherlands is strong in the collation of patient data through biobanks, leading among competitors with 0.18 Orphanet biobanks per 100,000 people. Examples include Health-RI, a public-private partnership representing 70+ organizations to optimize access to knowledge, tools, facilities, health data and samples. The BBMRI-NL, the national directory of biobanks, and the Netherlands Cohorts Consortium offer access to large patient registers and over 350,000 active cohort participants.

“The Netherlands is a high quality and reliable place to conduct clinical research due to the large supply of international medical experts, patients, hospitals and good infrastructure.”



Collaborative ecosystem with clinical partners

With research networks across the country, the Netherlands is a collaborative clinical trial research site in the Europe. A prominent research network for example is the European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases (ECRAID), headquartered in the Netherlands and offering a single point of access to a pan-European network of 100 clinical sites and 900 laboratories across 42 countries. And the Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organisation (IKNL), offering a National Platform for Support in Clinical Oncological Multicenter Research.

The Netherlands is committed to advancing clinical trials

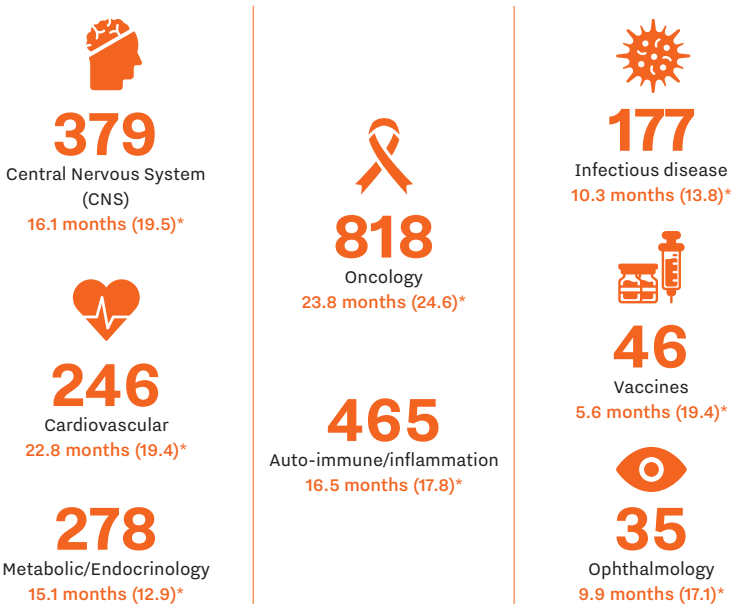
Innovation is at the source of the Dutch health care system. The country pushes the needle when it comes to new diagnostic and therapeutic technology, medicine and treatment. That is confirmed by the Netherlands' third place ranking in the World Index of Healthcare Innovation 2022. Needless to say, clinical trials play an essential role in this innovation. Join us in taking your clinical trials to the next level in the Netherlands.

Across key therapeutic areas, the Netherlands already has impressive achievements in clinical trials, as the results for 2018-2022 illustrate. It's a solid basis to further advance clinical trials here.

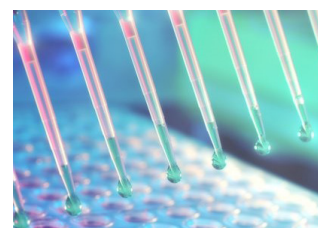
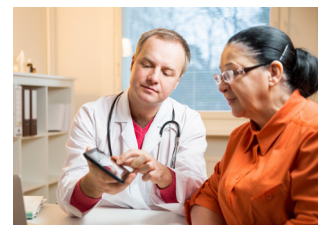
Therapeutic areas in the Netherlands

Clinical Trials between 2018–2022

*Average Enrollment Time (vs. European Average)



Source: Citeline Custom Intelligence, October 2023



Let us help you accelerate your medicine development and clinical research

The Invest in Holland network is comprised of the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA), a unit of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs & Climate Policy, and regional economic development agencies. Together, we provide free, objective, and confidential services including:

- Introductions to (University) Medical Centers, research networks and CROs
- Connections with specialized agencies for recruitment, office space, housing and schools
- Connections with regulator CCMO
- Information on law and taxation
- Connections with ecosystem partners such as the Dutch Clinical Research Foundation, Health-RI, Health-Holland, and PPPs for clinical research

Let's start the conversation about initiating your clinical trials in the Netherlands.

