



CADARN

MOONDANCE CANCER INITIATIVE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is CADARN?

CADARN [Collaborative Action for Driving & Accelerating Research Nationally] is a system-level intervention developed by Moondance Cancer Initiative to unlock the potential of cancer research in Wales.

It tackles longstanding barriers – such as uneven access, protracted approvals, and slow recruitment – by creating structure, focus, and national coordination.

Through a series of targeted, tumour site-focused rounds, CADARN brings people together to agree priorities, activate delivery, and generate new ideas – ensuring patients across Wales benefit from research that improves care and outcomes.

Why is it needed?

Research delivery in Wales is often fragmented. Patients in different regions don't always have the same access to studies. Health boards may face similar challenges but approach them in isolation. CADARN aims to bring national focus, structure and support to address this, so that cancer research can improve care and outcomes more equitably and efficiently across the country

What does CADARN actually do?

CADARN operates in targeted rounds with each one focused on a single tumour site..

Each round includes:

- A CADARN National Meeting, bringing together key stakeholders to:
 - Collectively agree on one study from the NHS research portfolio to support and activate for all-Wales delivery
 - Generate new research ideas through an interdisciplinary sandpit
- Coordinated, all-Wales delivery of the selected study
- Development of promising sandpit ideas into viable, fundable research proposals
- Targeted support to enable national study delivery and help progress new ideas into action.

What is the CADARN National Meeting?

The National Meeting is the cornerstone of each CADARN round, a dedicated **in-person event** where key decisions are made and new ideas take shape. It brings together research-active clinicians, R&D teams, patient representatives, and other key stakeholders from across Wales to:

- Hear pitches from Chief Investigators of relevant and feasible pre-identified studies from the NHS research portfolio
- Collectively agree on one study to support and activate for all-Wales delivery
- Generate new research ideas through an interdisciplinary sandpit focused on clinical priorities and gaps
- Turn shared priorities into action – shaping what gets delivered, where, and how

Why should you be involved in CADARN?

CADARN brings together the people who shape, deliver, and participate in cancer research in Wales. It's about connection and collective effort.

It provides a platform to see ideas tested, developed, and delivered at pace and scale – with the opportunity to shape studies that have national reach and impact. It supports researchers and delivery teams to work collaboratively across health boards, with added coordination and investment to help overcome local challenges and make shared priorities possible. For patients and the public, it ensures lived experience is embedded in the decisions that shape what research matters most.

When do CADARN rounds take place?

CADARN operates through ongoing tumour-specific rounds.

The first round, focused on colorectal cancer, brought together clinicians, researchers and partners at the National Meeting in November 2025 and has since progressed into delivery, with the selected study being activated across Wales and research concepts from the sandpit moving into study development.

The next round will focus on breast cancer, with the National Meeting planned for September 2026.

How will studies be selected?

Each CADARN round identifies suitable studies already on the NHS research portfolio. Selection is based on clinical relevance, feasibility for all-Wales delivery, and potential patient impact. At the National Meeting, each Chief Investigator (CI) presents their study to the group. Through discussion and consensus-building, one study is selected for coordinated delivery across all health boards in Wales.

What happens after the National Meeting for each round?

The selected study moves into coordinated delivery across all participating health boards. R&D teams remain central to this process; their expertise and leadership make national delivery possible. CADARN offers additional coordination and support to help align study set-up and delivery, navigate permissions, and remove barriers to participant recruitment. The aim is to reduce duplication, share learning, and enable health boards to move at the same pace wherever possible.

Promising sandpit ideas will be translated into feasible study proposals – with CADARN offering tailored support to shape their design, explore funding options, and connect with the right delivery partners.

What kinds of research will CADARN support?

CADARN focuses on research that can be delivered in real-world NHS settings and that has clear potential to improve outcomes. This includes studies already on the NHS research portfolio, as well as new ideas generated through the interdisciplinary sandpit at the National Meeting. Projects could range from snapshot audits and service evaluations to randomised controlled trials – depending on clinical priorities and feasibility.

What happens if a sandpit idea leads to a major trial?

CADARN will help shape promising ideas into viable study proposals. If an idea has potential for a larger-scale trial, CADARN can provide early support – including refining the concept, exploring funding options, and connecting with the right partners. Some studies may be delivered within the programme; others may be progressed through external funding routes. CADARN doesn't fund major trials or research posts outright, but it helps create the conditions that make those opportunities possible.

Which tumour sites will CADARN focus on?

CADARN operates through a series of tumour-specific rounds.

The first round, launched in November 2025, focused on colorectal cancer. Future rounds are expected to include breast, gynaecological, lung and urology cancers, subject to ongoing review and prioritisation.

These have been identified based on factors such as incidence, mortality, rising NHS referral rates, and alignment with national priorities.

What is CEDAR's role in CADARN?

CEDAR (*Centre for Healthcare Evaluation, Device Assessment and Research*) is CADARN's delivery partner. They provide coordination, capacity and research expertise to translate the outputs of the National Meeting into action.

This includes supporting the mobilisation of the selected study across Wales, progressing research concepts from the sandpit into study development, and coordinating activity across Health Boards to maintain momentum and share learning.

How will CADARN benefit patients?

CADARN is designed to ensure that wherever patients live in Wales, they have the same chance to take part in relevant, meaningful research. It supports faster access to trials that can improve diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes – now and in the future.

How is public and patient involvement (PPI) built in?

Public and patient involvement is integral to CADARN. Patients and the public are engaged at key points – from shaping research priorities and participating in National Meetings to helping review and refine study proposals.

How does CADARN complement existing research activity?

CADARN is designed to strengthen and support the research activity in Wales, not replace or duplicate what already exists. It builds on the expertise of research teams, R&D departments, and national infrastructure by providing additional support, coordination, and focus.

It offers a practical delivery mechanism that supports Health Boards to work together at pace on shared clinical priorities. By combining consistent study selection with all-Wales

delivery and targeted support, CADARN helps turn good ideas into real-world patient impact more quickly and fairly.

CADARN works in partnership with organisations such as Health and Care Research Wales, Wales Cancer Research Centre and the NHS Wales Cancer Network, to align with national strategies and ensure its efforts add value to the wider system.

Is CADARN based on an existing model?

CADARN is inspired by the GRECCAR model in France, a nationally coordinated cancer research framework established in 2007, widely recognised for its ability to mobilise **surgical, clinical, and academic expertise** around shared research priorities.

At its core, GRECCAR operates through coordinated national research cycles, where teams across major centres come together to identify pressing clinical questions, submit study proposals, and collectively select one study to take forward. This cyclical, consensus-based approach has become an exemplar for delivering clinically relevant research at pace and scale, expanding trial access and strengthening national collaboration.

CADARN adapts this model to the Welsh context, with a strong emphasis on equity, feasibility, and relevance to clinical priorities.

How is CADARN being coordinated and funded?

CADARN is funded by Moondance Cancer Initiative as part of their work to improve cancer outcomes across Wales.

Funding will be used flexibly to support delivery where it adds the most value – for example, convening and resourcing the CADARN National Meetings, providing the additional coordination that enables studies to open consistently across Wales, and investing in the development of new research ideas so that promising proposals can move towards funding and delivery.

How will we know if CADARN is working?

Each round includes built-in checkpoints to assess study activation, recruitment pace, and engagement. Over time, CADARN will track changes in research access, equity, and delivery outcomes across Wales – helping inform decisions about scaling and improvement.

Is CADARN a pilot?

No. CADARN is a strategic intervention, not a test or feasibility project. The model is evidence-based and focused on practical delivery from the outset. Early rounds will inform refinement and long-term implementation.

How can you get involved?

CADARN is being co-designed with the system, and success depends on shared input and ownership. If you're involved in cancer research delivery in Wales and want to know more, contact the Moondance Cancer Initiative team at info@moondance-cancer.wales