The NICRF is happy to support small studies with University sponsorship that require venepuncture only. For such an application to be considered, the following steps should be followed:

* The PI should submit a Blood Sampling Only Application Form, providing information on sample size, number of visits and duration of visits (available on website). If you require NICRF nursing support to perform venepuncture activity, please make this request on the application form. Please note that NICRF staff only use closed safety systems.
* Any NICRF approval will be provisional until the Study Sponsor has stated they are happy that the NICRF is used.
* We require all researchers who intend to use the NICRF to attend for an induction prior to any study visits.
* The NICRF expect all PIs to visit the facility to ensure they are happy with arrangements.

Other considerations:

* All consumables should be supplied by the study, the NICRF may be able to supply and recharge on request.
* For PhD studies the cost will be a minimum of £50 per study, with an expectation that the study will usually involve a maximum of 24 visits in total. Once this quota has been met then the agreement will be reviewed by PI and the NICRF.
* Costings and study visits will be reviewed annually by the PI and NICRF staff.
* Appointment times will be dependent on NICRF capacity with fully-funded studies taking priority.
* All studies should result in zero cost to the NICRF, therefore all consumables should be supplied by the study. The NICRF may be able to supply and recharge on request.
* Due to HTA requirements, samples can only be stored by prior arrangement for a maximum of 5 days and must be removed by Friday afternoon (no weekend storage allowed).
* A Service Level Agreement (SLA) will be issued by the NICRF for each study, clarifying project codes / cost codes and invoicing arrangements

Please refer to [www.qub.ac.uk/nicrf](http://www.qub.ac.uk/nicrf) for the Application Form and further information. If you have any queries, please contact NICRF@belfasttrust.hscni.net or telephone 028950 40342.