

# HiSLAC

## High-intensity Specialist Led Acute Care

Website: [www.hislac.org](http://www.hislac.org)  
 Twitter: @HISLACProject

### Background

The HiSLAC project is a national project funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Health Service and Delivery (HS&DR) Programme.

The aim of the study is to determine whether having more specialists in hospitals at weekends improves outcomes for patients admitted as medical emergencies. The project will also undertake a health economics analysis of the impact of increasing specialist provision across the NHS. The HiSLAC project will contribute to the evaluation of NHS England's 7-day services programme.

### Phase 2

Phase 2 is a detailed quantitative and qualitative study with two workstreams.

- **Workstream A: NHS System-level analysis** of emergency (unplanned) admissions to all English NHS acute Trusts.
- **Workstream B: In depth hospital comparison study.** A detailed cross-sectional mixed methods analysis of emergency non-operative admissions to 10 HiSLAC hospitals and 10 low-intensity (LoSLAC) hospitals.

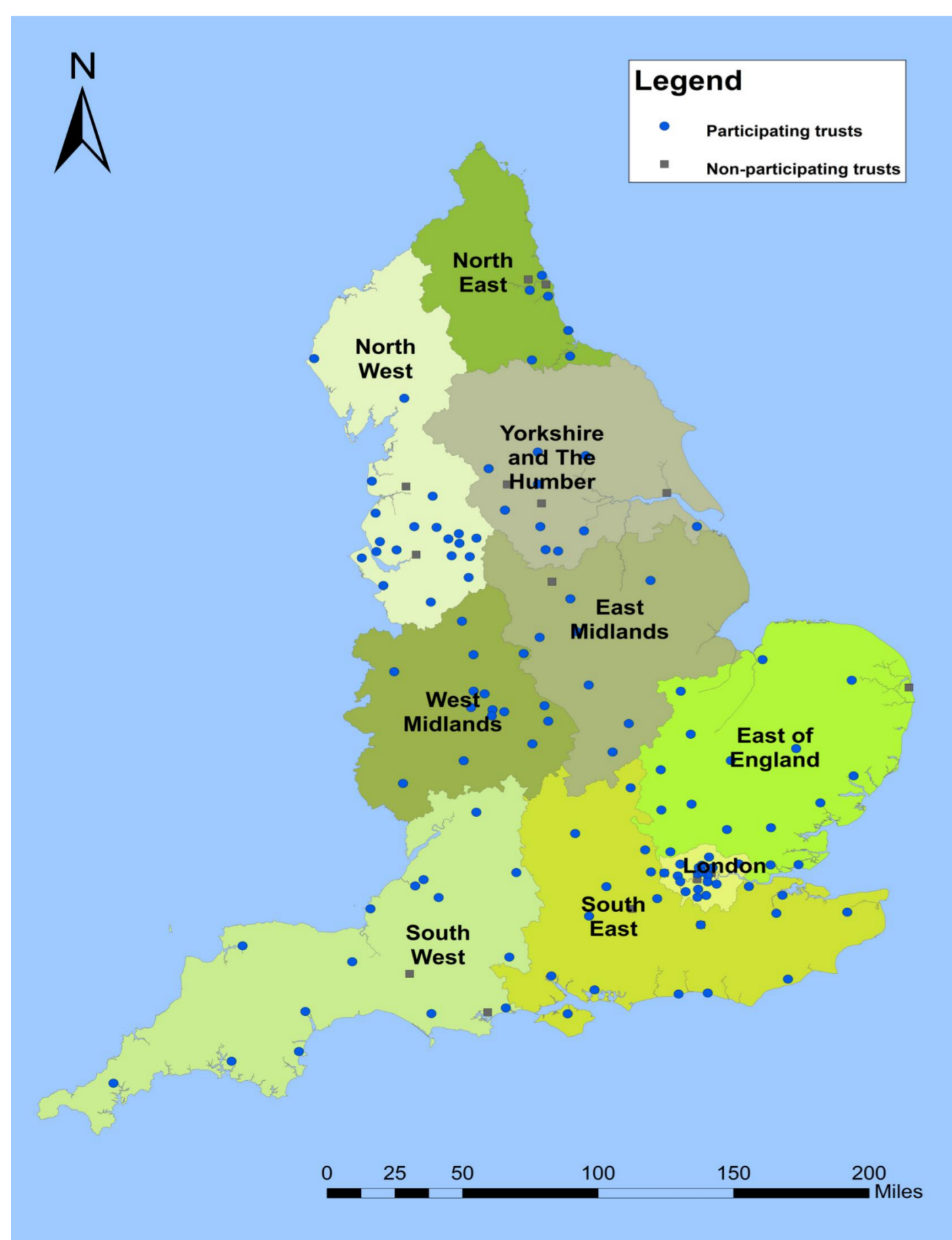
### Phase 1

- Develop metrics for HiSLAC and map current levels of 'penetration'.
- Acquire HES/ONS data for acute (unplanned) admissions. Estimate the number of admissions and acute beds at NHS Trusts in England.
- Construct a health economics model to examine the cost-effectiveness and budget impact of HiSLAC.
- Undertake a review of the literature around weekend-weekday mortality difference.

### Implications for Practice

NHS England requires Trusts to introduce 7 day working 'at scale and pace'. This gives HiSLAC the opportunity for contemporaneous evaluation of these large-scale changes in healthcare delivery as they occur. We expect our results to have the following impact:

- Determine whether the impact of implementing HiSLAC justifies or even fully offsets the workforce costs.
- Provide a solid evidence base and implementation guidance material to assist hospitals in making the business case for, and implementing HiSLAC.
- Evaluate the impact of the transition to 7 day working and to understand factors likely to impede or enhance the effectiveness of this change in practice.
- Support the NICE clinical guideline group on service delivery for acute medical emergencies, and refinement of methods for quality assessment in circumstances where explicit criteria are insufficient.



**126 acute Trusts across England are participating in the HiSLAC Project with a Local Project Lead nominated at each Trust.**

### Endorsed or supported by:



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