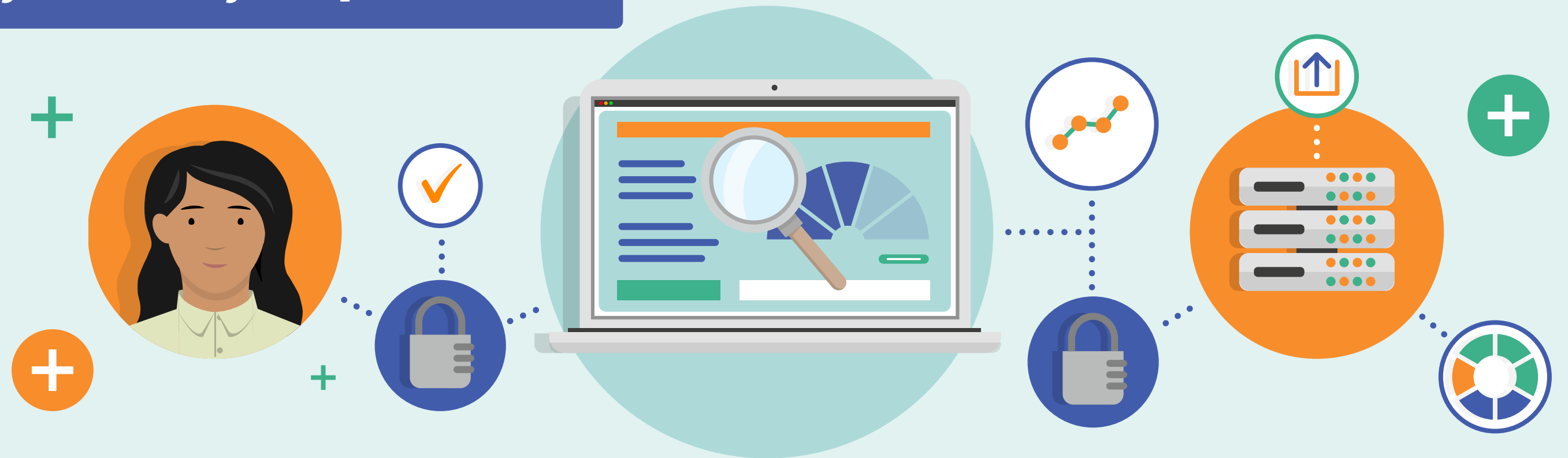# What is a TRE?

A TRE is a **Trusted Research Environment.** Also known as 'Data Safe Havens', TREs are highly secure computing environments that provide remote access to health data for approved researchers to use in research that can save and improve lives.

Why are they **important?**

TREs make research safer. Making data available through a TRE means that people can be **confident** that their personal health data is accessed **securely** and their **privacy protected.**
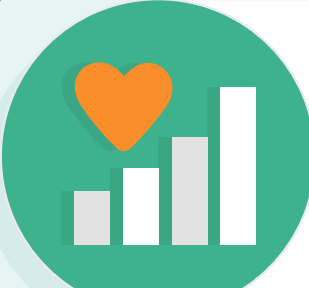
TREs help make **research efficient**, **collaborative** and **cost effective**, providing rich data that enables **deep insights** which will go on to improve healthcare and **save lives.**

TREs provide approved researchers with a **single location** to access valuable datasets. The data and analytical tools are all in **one place**, a bit like a **secure reference library.**
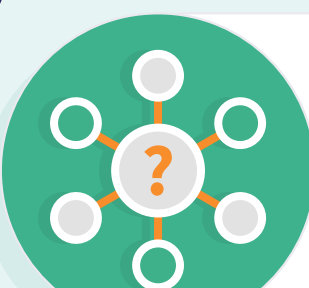
Learn more about TREs and discover examples of how TREs are being used to enable life-saving health research.
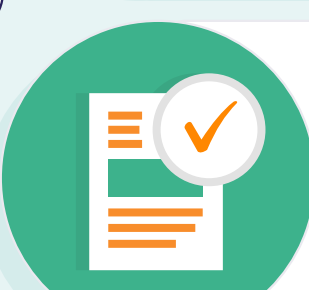
How is my data **safeguarded?**

Health data should always be kept safe and secure, and used responsibly to ensure privacy. Heath Data Research UK ensures these high standards are met by promoting the use of the 'Five Safes' model across all TREs.

Safe People
Only trained and specifically accredited researchers can access the data

Safe Projects
Data is only used for ethical, approved research with the potential for clear public benefit

Safe Settings
Access to data is only possible using secure technology systems – the data never leaves the TRE

Safe Data
Researchers only use data that have been de-identifed to protect privacy

Safe Outputs
All research outputs are checked to ensure they cannot be used to identify subjects