

Discoveries for life



Draft CIHR Ethics Guidance for Developing Research Partnerships with Patients

For public consultation

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Preamble for the Consultation Draft

This project to develop ethics guidance for patient engagement in research was endorsed by the CIHR Standing Committee on Ethics in 2015, in support of Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR). The project is a response to ethical issues that were initially identified by the SPOR SUPPORT Unit Patient Engagement Working Group, and reiterated at various conferences and workshops. The proposed ethics guidance builds on the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework and, once finalized, could be adapted in various formats by SPOR leads and other initiatives, organizations and institutions to serve as an education resource for all those involved in research partnerships with patients.

The CIHR Working Group on Ethics in Patient Engagement in Research was established in September 2016. The Working Group is co-chaired by the Manager of the CIHR Ethics Office and a public member on the CIHR Standing Committee on Ethics. Members consist of approximately equal numbers of patients and experts in relevant fields of research and ethics, and include Indigenous perspectives.

This working group, with its deliberate consideration of Indigenous peoples in Canada and their issues relevant to research, has come together in reconciliation. With the support of CIHR, we intend this to be one small step in contributing to Canada's complete implementation of reconciliation. We hope that the various Indigenous-specific contributions will resonate with others. Further, in adopting and implementing this guidance when finalized, we are sincerely hoping that patients, researchers, institutions and funders will consider their respective roles and responsibilities in collective efforts toward healing and reconciliation.

The Working Group welcomes your comments on this draft of the guidance.

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Jenna Coles provided support for the project as a summer intern in 2016.

A Word about this Document

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- 3 This is an ethics guidance document designed to assist those engaged or interested in a particular mode
- 4 of health research called patient-engaged research, in which patients are amongst those conducting or
- 5 facilitating the study. This guidance document had its origins in CIHR's Strategic Patient-Oriented
- 6 Research (SPOR) initiative and in particular the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework.
- 7 This form of research has elements in common with other valuable modes of health research such as
- 8 public or citizen engagement in research and community participatory research but is distinct in that it
- 9 brings the lived experiences of patients to the research enterprise.
- 10 In this guidance, we begin from the assumption that patient engagement in research is a productive and
- important mode of health research. A good description of patient engagement in research and its
- 12 advantages can be found in the SPOR Patient Engagement Framework (http://www.cihr-
- 13 <u>irsc.gc.ca/e/48413.html</u>). Our primary purpose is to explore its ethical dimensions.
- Our aim is to offer guidance or accumulated wisdom on ethical aspects of this type of research. That
- wisdom draws on the experiences of the document's authors, those who have generously offered
- 16 comments on the document as well as academic and literature in this area. Our intention is to make a
- 17 contribution to what we envision as an on-going conversation. It is not meant to be a final word on the
- issues discussed. We hope that this will encourage a productive on-going conversation. We have also
- tried to move beyond simple "do's" and "don'ts" to suggesting ways of improving the practice of patient-
- 20 engaged health research.
- While we take into account the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving
- Humans (TCPS 2) and the Tri-Council Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research, we do not intend to
- add to, or modify, those documents. Nor do we intend this document to be regulatory or quasi-
- 24 regulatory.
- In this document we discuss the wide variety of roles that patients may play in the research ethics
- lifecycle. Many of these roles involve responsibilities beyond those considered in either the TCPS2 or the
- 27 Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research. For example, a patient may be involved in
- setting health research priorities for a community or research sponsor, serve as a member of a scientific
- review committee or play a leadership role in an Indigenous community commissioning a health research
- project. We note too that in the research under consideration there is a continuum of patient
- involvement from research that is driven and directed by researchers and research sponsors, to research
- that is based in or initiated by communities. Patients can be involved at any point in the continuum. Our
- advice is directed to those working at various points along this continuum.
- 34 The primary audiences we see for this guidance document are the patient and academic/clinical
- researchers who come together to conduct or contemplate conducting this type of research. Secondary
- 36 audiences include institutions that foster or house this type of research, sponsors of the research

- including particularly the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, those who play a role in regulating this
- 38 type of research including research ethics boards, and those who study this type of research.
- 39 Accordingly, we have written in a form that is meant to be broadly accessible rather than for specialist
- 40 academic readers. We have also minimized the use of footnotes and references, preferring instead to
- include a bibliography of sources that we have found useful.

How is this guidance structured?

- This guidance is framed around the roles that patients take on when engaged in research across the
- 44 research lifecycle¹: in priority setting; development of the research proposal; scientific and ethics review
- of the proposal; oversight of a research project; recruitment of research participants; data collection,
- 46 analysis and interpretation; knowledge translation of research results; and evaluation. These roles play
- out in a variety of settings: at the level of individual projects; at the level of institutions and communities
- 48 within which the research occurs; and at the pan-institutional and societal level (for example, research
- 49 funders).

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- We highlight overarching ethical considerations and ethical issues that are relevant to patient
- engagement across the research lifecycle, and offer guidance for specific roles.

What do we mean by patients?

- 53 In line with how patients are defined in SPOR, we define patients as an overarching term that includes
- people with personal experience of living with an illness or other health condition, as well as informal
- caregivers, including family and friends.

What do we mean by patient engagement?

- As defined by SPOR, patient engagement occurs when patients meaningfully and actively collaborate in
- the governance, priority setting, and conduct of research, as well as in summarizing, distributing, sharing,
- and applying its resulting knowledge (i.e., the process referred to as knowledge translation and
- 60 exchange). Patients who are involved in any of these roles are called patient partners in this document.

Why is patient engagement in research important?

- Patient engagement is a foundational concept of SPOR, and is becoming internationally more common as
- patients and the health research community become increasingly aware of the value of collaborating on
- 65 research that is intended to benefit patients through improved health, more effective health services
- and products, or a strengthened Canadian health care system.
 - From an ethical perspective, meaningful patient engagement puts a high value on:
 - Research that is grounded in a deep understanding of the health situations and lived experiences
 of actual patients -- including groups that are typically under-represented in research -- and
 therefore becomes more applicable to and usable by those patients;

¹ We have taken the term "research lifecycle" from the paper by James A. Anderson, Brenda Swatzky-Girling, Michael McDonald, Daryl Pullman, Raphael Saginur, Heather A. Sampson, and Donald J. Willison, "Research Ethics, Broadly Writ", *Health Law Review* 19, 3, 2011, 12-24.

- Research methods that are culturally safe, respectful and appropriate;
 - Patients having the power and capacity to shape research that matters to them, and researchers recognizing the importance of supporting patients for meaningful patient engagement;
 - Research that is legitimate in the eyes of the community that the research is intended to benefit;
 - Relationships among patients and others involved in research that are mutually respectful; and
 - A relationship between academic researchers and patients that creates an *ethical space* for respectful dialogue and discussion where each person can speak in their own voice.

Does patient engagement in research raise specific ethical questions and issues?

The multiple contexts of patient engagement generate a variety of ethical issues across the research ethics lifecycle that need to be addressed, and so this document highlights questions -- and key points of reflection -- for patients, researchers, institutions, and funders, to help them think about how to do patient engagement in an ethical and meaningful way, and to turn these reflections into best practices.

Do patient engagement plans require review by institutional research ethics boards?

Research ethics boards are responsible for reviewing research protocols to ensure that the research involving humans will be conducted in compliance with TCPS 2, which includes appropriate protections for research participants. While ethics approval is not required for involving patients in the planning or design stages of research, at the point of ethics review it is within the purview of the research ethics board to consider how patient involvement has contributed or will contribute to the research, and that the patient partners have received sufficient training and support necessary for their roles on the research team.

Patient partners may appear in three distinct roles that research ethics boards need to consider:

- 1) As part of the research team. Here, research ethics boards are charged with scrutinizing their roles as members of the research team. For example, when patients are part of the research team, the research ethics board will consider their roles in such activities as:
 - a. Protocol development, including recruitment strategies, deliberating bio-ethical issues, informed consent process and materials.
 - b. Field work, including assistance with recruitment and data collection.
 - c. Data analysis adding insights from the patient's perspective.
 - d. Knowledge Translation and Exchange (KTE), identifying target audiences and crafting messages.

Research ethics boards should be aware that the involvement of patients in research has the potential to make research more relevant to the people it is trying to assist; and helps determine what is acceptable to research participants and improve the experience of research participation.

2) As research participants, if patient partners also have this role. Here, research ethics boards need to ensure proper protection for participants with the added complexity that these participants are also involved in the research effort as part of the research team.

3) As part of a community being researched or sponsoring research and perhaps as spokespersons for those communities. Here, norms of community participatory research and/or research involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples are relevant.



114 Glossary

Capacity strengthening: This involves giving people the tools to strengthen their existing capacities. This term is preferred over related terms such as *capacity building* or *empowerment* because this term recognizes that people bring their existing abilities, skills, and exercise of power to their engagement in research.

Community: A group of people with a shared identity or interest that has the capacity to act or express itself as a collective. A community may be territorial, organizational or a community of interest. (TCPS 2)

Community member: Someone who self-identifies, and is recognized by the community, as belonging to a specific community. See definition of *Community*.

Conflict of interest or commitment: The perceived, actual or potential incompatibility of two or more duties, responsibilities, or interests (personal or professional) of an individual or institution as they relate to the research activity, such that one cannot be fulfilled without compromising the other(s) (adapted from TCPS 2).

Cultural safety: The concept of cultural safety was first proposed by a Maori nurse and educator, Irihapeti Ramsden. This concept is described by Simon Brascoupé and Catherine Waters as follows: "Cultural safety developed as a concept in nursing practice in New Zealand with respect to health care for Maori people [...]. It develops the idea that to provide quality care for people from different ethnicities and cultures, nurses must provide that care within the cultural values and norms of the patient [...] The outcome of the culturally safe practice is a two-way relationship built on respect and a bicultural exchange which aims for equality and shared responsibility. [...] a shift in the power positions needs to take place to build a strong relationship based on genuine respect, inclusive decision-making and joint effort"². Different but related terms include cultural humility (focusing on self-reflection and humility in learning and understanding another's experience³), and cultural competence (focusing on the knowledge and skills needed to work in cross-cultural contexts⁴). The concept of cultural competence has been criticized in the context of Indigenous health for assuming that knowledge and skills are sufficient, and for not recognizing that new relationships need to be established in which there is equality and shared responsibility to achieve a culturally safe outcome.

Experiential knowledge: Knowledge that is gained from lived experience. See definition of *Lived experience*.

Knowledge translation and exchange: A dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge. This process takes place within a complex system of interactions between researchers and knowledge users which may vary in intensity, complexity and level of engagement depending on the nature of the research and the findings as well as the needs of the particular knowledge user⁵. An example of knowledge translation is the communication of scientific findings in plain

² Brascoupé, S. and Waters, C., Cultural Safety – Exploring the Applicability of the Concept of Cultural Safety to Aboriginal Health and Community Wellness, Journal of Aboriginal Health, November 2009:

http://www.naho.ca/documents/journal/jah05 02/05 02 01 Cultural.pdf
³ For example, see the British Columbia First Nations Health Authority web site: http://www.fnha.ca/wellness/cultural-humility#learn

⁴ For example, see the University of Ottawa web site: https://www.med.uottawa.ca/sim/data/Serv_Culture_e.htm

⁵ See CIHR's mandate in knowledge translation: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html

language for lay audiences, as well many other ways in which new knowledge can be communicated and applied.

Lived experience of patients. Personal experience (in the past or on an ongoing basis) of living with an illness or other health condition, or caring for someone with a health condition. The concept of the *expert patient* comes from the recognition that lived experience can be the basis of expertise in knowing how a health condition and treatment affect the patient's own body and circumstances, and that patients should have "the confidence, skills, information and knowledge to play a central role in the management of life" ⁶ with their medical condition. Expertise from lived experience can also help to inform research related to a patient's health condition as well as the ways in which the condition and treatment intersect with the social determinants of health (such as culture, social status, access to health services, etc.).

Patients: An overarching term inclusive of individuals with personal experience of living with an illness or other health condition, and informal caregivers, including family and friends (based on the SPOR definition). (This guidance was developed in support of SPOR and therefore uses SPOR's broad definition of patients to encompass the range of people who may be engaged as partners in research. Other related terms are *knowledge users*, *citizens*, *community members*, *etc.*).

Patient engagement in research: Patient engagement occurs when patients meaningfully and actively collaborate in the governance, priority setting, and/or design and conduct of research, such as in the analysis and interpretations of findings, and summarizing, distributing, sharing and applying its resulting knowledge (based on SPOR).

Patient-engaged research: Research in which patients contribute as patient partners.

Patient partners: Patients who collaborate in the governance, priority setting, and/or design and conduct of research, such as in the analysis and interpretations of findings, and summarizing, distributing, sharing and applying its resulting knowledge.

Research participant: An individual who is involved in a research study and whose data, or responses to interventions, stimuli or questions by a researcher, are relevant to answering a research question. In some forms of research, such as participatory research, research participants collaborate to define the research project, collect and analyze the data, produce a final product and act on the results. (TCPS 2, Glossary)

SPOR: Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) is about ensuring that the right patient receives the right intervention at the right time. Patient-oriented research refers to a continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focuses on patient-identified priorities and improves patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams in partnership with relevant stakeholders, aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practices. SPOR is a coalition of federal,

 $\frac{\text{http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH 4006801}$

⁶ For example, see "The expert patient: a new approach to chronic disease management for the 21st century", United Kingdom, Department of Health, 2001.

provincial and territorial partners – all dedicated to the integration of research into care. Web site: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41204.html

Systemic and structural barriers to patient engagement: Systemic barriers are policies, practices or procedures that result in some people receiving unequal access or being excluded. In terms of engagement on research teams, a systemic barrier may be tied to the long lag-times between the phases of the research, from protocol development through funding, ethics review, field work, analysis, and knowledge translation and exchange. Structural barriers are understood as a condition where one category of people is attributed an unequal status in relation to other categories of people. This relationship is perpetuated and reinforced by a confluence of unequal relations in roles, functions, decisions, rights, and opportunities. Poverty, race or lack of education are examples of potential structural barriers.

TCPS 2: Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans, 2nd Edition 2014. This is a joint policy of the Canada's three federal research agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). To be eligible to receive and administer funds from the Agencies, institutions must ensure that research conducted under their auspices adheres to this and other policies of the Agencies.

Other terms are defined contextually in this document.

Reflections on Trust in Patient Engagement in Health Research

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1. Overarching Ethical Considerations

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- In this section, we articulate the ethical considerations including four core principles and beliefs that we see as especially important to patient engagement in research:
- 200 1. Mutual respect for different ways of knowing and interacting
- 201 2. Democratic participation and rights
 - 3. Solidarity, reciprocity and shared commitment
- 4. Personal integrity
- In common with other forms of human endeavour, there are underlying ethical principles that apply to all types of research in particular: *Concern for the welfare of others, Justice,* and *Respect.*
- 206 While these are foundational, our concern here is with articulating general ethical principles that are 207 particularly relevant to patients engaged as partners in health research, as opposed to research 208 participants. We recognize that this type of research has much in common with community-based 209 participatory research and has much to learn from the principles used to guide research involving 210 Indigenous Peoples. But we recognize too that not all patients are members of self-identifying 211 communities. We also see an important source of values in the principles that ground research 212 scholarship and integrity – such as critical enquiry, open dialogue, the articulation of and commitment to 213 standards of good research, veracity and candour. However, patient partners in research are also 214 patients as well as co-researchers.

1.1 Mutual respect for different ways of knowing and interacting

- There are diverse enriching paths to knowledge, including empirically gathered knowledge, knowledge gained through lived experience (experiential knowledge), and Indigenous ways of knowing. Patient
- engagement is an important way of bringing different perspectives to the health research endeavour. It
- $219 \hspace{0.5cm} \hbox{can help to reveal } \textit{blind spots} \hbox{conscious or unconscious biases} \hbox{that may interfere with good health}$
- research and health care. Taking an inclusive and collaborative approach to research can strengthen the
- research. Due to their lived experiences, patients often have valuable insights to bring to research.
- Neglecting patients' potential contributions to health research may miss important aspects of the health
- issues involved and make the implementation of valuable research more difficult.
- 224 In addition, researchers and patients may come from different cultural backgrounds and have different
- 225 expectations in regard to appropriate ways of interacting. This may be compounded by the patient's
- sense that they lack the vocabulary used by the rest of the research team.

| 227 | Key qualities that support successful partnerships in research—for patients, researchers and others— |
|-----|--|
| 228 | include: being respectful of others' perspectives; being a good listener; communicating in lay, non- |
| 229 | technical terms; being non-judgmental; using personal experiences constructively for deeper |
| 230 | understanding; being able to work collaboratively; and being interested in expanding one's own |
| 231 | knowledge and skills. |

1.2 Democratic participation and rights

As key stakeholders in health research, patients and their communities have legitimate claims to be active in shaping the research that is intended to benefit them and to do so in meaningful ways throughout the research process. In a crucial sense, patient involvement in health research helps legitimize the research enterprise by including the often-diverse perspectives of those with the health conditions being studied and community representatives who speak on behalf of members of their community with those conditions.

1.3 Solidarity, reciprocity and shared commitment

Solidarity and reciprocity based on mutual advantage are expressed in patient-engaged research through shared commitments, and a willingness to assist others in collective efforts toward common goals. The underlying idea is that patients are treated as essential partners in this form of health research, and are appropriately supported, recognized and compensated for their contributions to the research process.

1.4 Personal integrity

This involves candour, honesty, and promise-keeping. It also includes accurate analysis and reporting of research as well as the recognition and appropriate management of factors that may hinder research, such as conflict of interest and bias.

⁷ The Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) is presently developing a series of considerations to take into account when offering payment to patients involved in research. Once these considerations are finalized they will be posted on the SPOR website.

2. Establishing Trust for Patient Engagement in Research

- The four elements described in the previous section can be seen as creating the conditions to establish a trust relationship. This relationship has three key aspects:
 - First, there are important shared beliefs (a cognitive element) underlying the trust relationship.
 The researcher believes that the patient partner could bring to the table experiential knowledge
 and insights that are valuable to the research project or enterprise. Similarly, the patient partner
 believes that the researcher also has the technical knowledge and skills that are valuable to the
 research project and to those who would benefit from the research. In other words, there is the
 shared belief that together they could provide synergistic contributions to health research and
 practice.
 - Second, trust involves mutual recognition of each other's integrity, veracity, and commitment to a shared research endeavour.
 - Third, trust involves assuming a risk that the other could let you down and betray the trust. However, the parties proceed in good faith despite that risk. Indeed, in the absence of risk, there is no need for trust.
 - Shared beliefs about the skill sets patients and researchers have creates the context for productively working together. These set the stage but, for collaboration to take place, there must be mutual commitment and the willingness to live up to it. In sum there is mutual trust in the other's knowledge, skills, and commitment.
- Beyond mutual trust, there is a further essential element for research to move forward: institutional support and resources.
- 270 Key questions to ask include:
 - Would a common or shared research enterprise be potentially productive?
 - Is there sufficient trust there to warrant a shared effort?
- Will there be enough resources including project and institutional support to warrant
 proceeding?
 - Have systemic and structural issues that may impede patient engagement been adequately addressed?

3. Key Cross-Cutting Ethical Concerns

- In this section, we identify major concerns that need to be addressed to maintain the trust relationships essential for successful patient engagement in research.
- Questions and tensions may arise at various points in the research lifecycle when patients are engaged as partners. Cross-cutting ethical concerns include:
 - Legitimation, tokenism, levels of engagement, and representation;
 - Conflicts of interest and commitments;
 - Power dynamics and imbalances;
 - Systemic and structural barriers to patient engagement;
 - Benefits and harms; and
 - Confidentiality of information.

Key points for reflection for patients, researchers, institutions or funders are provided under each crosscutting concern. Although somewhat different questions are posed for patients, researchers and others, all parties are encouraged to find answers in light of the four overarching considerations described in the previous section: *Mutual respect for different ways of knowing and interacting; Democratic participation and rights; Solidarity and shared commitment; and Personal integrity.* The underlying aim is to build the trust that is essential to ethical and productive patient engagement in research.

3.1 Legitimation, tokenism, levels of engagement, representation

Meaningful engagement of patients in research involves a partnership relationship. Empowered patient groups may even be in the position of initiators of a research project, drawing in researchers for their technical expertise. Tokenism in researcher-initiated studies, where the patient voice is present but largely ignored, must be avoided. Patients' perspectives must be taken seriously and help to shape the research. For example, on a research team, patients may be responsible for predetermined tasks that require particular skills, such as focus groups and interviews, or, at the most engaged level, patients are significantly involved as partners in research design and implementation, and become co-authors of publications, reports, presentations, and other outputs from a research study.

When a respected and trusted member of a patient community is engaged in a research project, the patient by their presence adds credibility to the project and the researchers in it. Their presence in the research enterprise may encourage other patients and their communities to participate in the research. Since engaged patients can help to legitimize the project in the eyes of other patients and the community, these patients have an obligation to ensure that this role respects their trust relationships with both researchers and their communities.

313 3.1.1 For Patients

- 314 As a patient partner, you should understand and be comfortable with your role.
- If you are bringing your personal lived experience of health issues to a research project, relevant questions to ask include the following:
 - Do I have both the knowledge base and the commitment to make a meaningful contribution to the research project? If appropriate, can I secure any needed additional help or resources⁸ from the research team or my community to make such a contribution?
 - Am I lending my credibility as an individual and patient to projects that I think might make a positive contribution to health care for other patients?
 - Is the scope of my role clear so that I am able to determine if I am being meaningfully engaged or not?
 - Is my presence in the project meaningful or am I only being used as a token, for example to secure research funding or to just gain access to other patients? If my presence feels tokenistic, is there a mechanism for me to voice my concerns?
 - How am I processing my experiential knowledge to guide the research process and enhance understanding?
 - As a patient, you should ask yourself about the basis of your representativeness:
 - Am I speaking as an individual with lived experience or am I expected to represent a larger community of people impacted by a given health condition or disease?
 - If I am speaking as an individual with a lived experience, what parts of that experience am I willing to share with others and what parts should I keep private because these involve confidential relationships with other patients and care-givers or because these are issues that I wish to remain private?
 - If I am a member of a community with its own governing structures has this community appointed me to represent them, or have I been elected by a membership to speak on their behalf? When am I just speaking for myself and when am I speaking for the community? In general, how do I fulfill my trust relationship with my community?
 - Have I consulted sufficiently with my community (for example, other patients, patient groups, community leaders) to ensure that I represent the community, and my community sees me as acting on their behalf? These consultations should enable the patient to bring back valuable input to the project—ideally throughout the research lifecycle.

In situations where you feel that a proposed role in the project would be tokenistic, or that a research project would not benefit others, you have a number of options with increasing levels of seriousness and impact:

- 1) You may choose to decline to participate.
- 2) You may propose ways to make your role more meaningful.

⁸ A useful resource is the SPOR Foundational Curriculum for Patient-Oriented Research [link when available].

3) If you have concerns about the research going ahead and are not being listened to, you may wish to bring these concerns to the attention of those in positions of authority or influence, such as the research ethics board of the lead researcher's institution; community leaders; a patient advocacy organization; or others who may have influence.

3.1.2 For Researchers, Research institutions, Funders

Researchers, research institutions and funders should reflect on the following questions:

- Does the involvement of patients in this research have a reasonable chance of increasing the usefulness of the research to the relevant patient community? In what areas of the research can patients most meaningfully contribute?
- Meaningfully involving patients in research requires building a trust relationship with them. Are we willing to make the commitment and effort that are essential for fulfilling that relationship?
- How can we provide the support needed (e.g., training, administrative services) to enable
 patients to make greater contributions to research? Sometimes, a patient may not want to learn
 the technicalities of, say, coding or data analysis. However, their thoughts, perspectives, and
 insights can easily be captured (if the researchers are adaptive and flexible).
- Is the role that we are asking patients to play meaningful or is it only tokenistic? Token engagement can lead to potential harms to the individual and to the collective relationships with patients and with communities in the future. There should be a mechanism in place for patients to voice their concerns if they feel that their engagement is tokenistic.
- If patients are asked to represent the views of others or their communities, are they given sufficient opportunities and resources to consult with others?

3.2 Conflicts of interest and commitments

The basic question that patients and researchers should ask themselves is: Are there any interests or commitments that could interfere with their ability to act in the best interests of the research process, project or team? Conflicts of interest and commitment arise when there is an incompatibility of two of more duties, responsibilities, or interests (personal or professional) of an individual or institution as they relate to the research activity, such that one cannot be fulfilled without compromising the other(s). Conflicts of interest and commitment can be potential, actual or perceived. Such conflicts may breach the trust that underlies the patient engagement relationship.

It is important to note that such conflicts may distort a person's judgement without that person's being consciously aware of it. Following conflict of interest guidelines and checking with reliable third parties, helps avoid this.

Conflicts may arise because patients and researchers wear many hats:

 Patients may be members of another non-patient community, or may have pre-existing or potential relationships or affiliations that could influence or interfere with how they carry out their role(s) in the research. These relationships or affiliations may be personal, political, commercial, or legal (for instance, duties of care such as legal guardianship).

• Researchers may have other roles (such as a health service provider) that may be viewed as a barrier to the engagement of certain patients in the research. For example, clinician-researchers may prefer not to sit on the same committee as their own patients, because they may want to ensure that the clinician-patient relationship is not compromised by a peer-to-peer relationship created by being members of the same committee. However, some patients may feel that being excluded from the committee is unfair because, for example, there may be few other opportunities to be engaged in research that is important to them (such as when patients have a rare condition or live in a remote location). Thus, there needs to be judgment shown in regard to particular contexts and relationships. In some cases, clinicians and their patients endeavor to separate the research activity from the patient's own health care so that a productive working relationship as research partners can be established.

While recognizing that conflicts will arise, it is also important to recognize the value of diversity and pre-existing relationships. Conflicts of interest and commitment need to be assessed on a case by case basis. Furthermore, what is seen as a conflict in one culture may not be seen as a conflict by another culture, and the appropriate ways to address a conflict may vary in different cultures.

Interests and commitments that could have an impact on the research need to be disclosed to appropriate individuals and institutions; and conflicts of interest and roles managed and minimized in a fair and appropriate way. Generally, explicit or implicit conflicts should be disclosed. Disclosure may however be limited due to confidentiality or harm considerations, and these considerations should be discussed with whoever has the lead on the management of conflict of interest so that alternative steps can be taken to manage the conflict. As well there are situations in which disclosure is insufficient to maintain the trust relationship and other measures need to be taken, such as vacating a conflicting role or leaving the research relationship.

412 3.2.1 For Patients

Consider the following:

- Do I as a patient have personal, business or other relationships in my community that could conflict with my role in the research, and inhibit me from acting in the best interests of the research? Have I disclosed these to others involved in the research and, where appropriate, to others in my patient group or community? How can I rearrange my involvement in the research to avoid such conflicts?
- Does the research team, institution or funding organization have policies and processes to help me identify and manage actual and potential conflicts?

- 3.2.2 For Researchers, Institutions, Funders
- 423 Consider the following:

- Have fair and transparent policies and processes been established to manage and minimize
 conflicts of interest and commitments, in recognition that patients are multi-dimensional and
 can have multiple roles (as research team members, community advisors, priority setters, etc.)
 and bring other interests, skills and affiliations to their role(s)?
 - If considering inviting friends, neighbours and family members to be "patient representatives", will these patient representatives be free to express an independent patient voice, or will their personal relationships present a conflict of interest that cannot be effectively managed, or inhibit their participation in research?
 - Researchers should consult with patients on how their commitments and interests are likely to be viewed by other patient partners in the research.

3.3 Power dyna

3.3 Power dynamics and imbalances

Engagement of patients in research can be affected by power imbalances with respect to such factors as:

- Status -- due to differences in community or social status, expertise, compensation, and affiliations (for example, among members of a committee or research team).
- Control— due to responsibilities for the funding for the research, and other accountabilities (by law and policy) at the level of the funder, institution, or research project; as well as possible community expectations for influence on its members.
- *Information* due to differences in expertise, experience, and access (for example, to academic journals) to help with understanding the research.
- Health Condition patients may have to attend to their health needs on a continuing or intermittent basis. If these needs are not accommodated in a satisfactory manner, patients may find it difficult or impossible to make effective contributions to the research without risking their own health and may therefore decide to withdraw as research partners.
- *Economic Situation* sometimes because of poverty there may be barriers to patients acting as full-fledged partners in research.
- *Divergent Cultural Protocols* researchers and patients may come from different cultural backgrounds and have different expectations in regard to appropriate ways of interacting.

Each of these potentially affects the trust relationship that grounds successful patient engagement in research. Misuses and manipulation of status, control and information may diminish and even freeze out meaningful patient engagement in research. Trust building measures include respecting the status of patients as partners in research, open discussion and consultation about control issues and the provision of relevant information in a timely, communicative, and forthright manner.

Patients and researchers bring various types of expertise and a range of competencies to the research project. Through mutual respect and valuing of alternate knowledge systems and ways of knowing, tensions around power imbalances can be resolved.

- Researchers have devoted their professional lives to researching a subject they may have been drawn
- to a particular area of research or clinical practice based on personal, family or professional experiences.
- They may have their own preconceptions of the experiences of the patients with whom they work.
- These preconceptions may be based on personal experience or on generalizations drawn from
- interactions with patients which may or may not map on to the experience of other patients. Bringing
- these preconceptions to light with the help of patient partners can help address potential impacts of
- 467 misconceptions and power imbalances.
- Patients with their lived experiences of a health condition can bring a range of relevant skills and
- experience. Patients, researchers, institutions, and funders should consider what skills and experience
- will be needed for particular roles, and what capacity-strengthening resources (education, training, and
- support systems) need to be provided. Mentorship opportunities can also be part of capacity
- strengthening— for example where patient partners provide training and development opportunities for
- 473 other patients.
- 474 Meaningful engagement of patients in research requires that information flows easily among team
- 475 members, so patients feel included in progress reporting and decision making. This may require efforts
- 476 to develop a common language of communication between researchers and patients to bridge the gap
- between researcher-speak and patient-speak. Norms should be discussed and agreed within the
- research team to ensure that information circulates correctly and that patients have access to
- information that they need to fulfill their roles (for example, emails, library services). Meeting agendas
- should be set collectively and followed through in the meetings.
- Researchers and patients may come from different cultural backgrounds and thus have different, often
- unspoken, expectations about appropriate forms of social interaction. For example, in many Indigenous
- communities there is the expectation that food will be provided at meetings. In many academic
- communities, food is just an optional extra for research meetings. Also, there may be different style of
- conversational interaction in different communities so that, for example, patients may have a hard time
- getting a word in edgewise during meetings in which outspokenness is the norm.

487 <u>3.3.1 For Patients</u>

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Relevant questions for patients to ask themselves include:

- Will I have the information access, status and power that I need to play a meaningful part in the research?
- Am I clear on the expectations that come with this role—my own, my community's, others?
- Are there resources that I will need to help me fulfill this role? Are these resources available to me? What influence or control do I have over these resources?
- Will I receive the training I need to fulfill my role on the research team, such as CIHR's training Modules 1, 2, 3, & 4 (Indigenous Learning Pathway)?
- Could I have a role in training patients and researchers to help expose or improve power imbalances, and deal with them?
- Do I understand the roles of other members of the research team and how I fit in?

• Do I feel that I am being treated equitably and with respect? Is my voice being heard, and my contributions acknowledged and valued?

3.3.2 For Researchers, Institutions and Funders

Consider the following:

- At the project planning stage, have you included resources and support so that:
 - o patients can meaningfully contribute to research, and
 - o researchers and others understand what meaningful collaboration is and what their responsibilities are?
- Have you established processes, support and compensation so that patients feel they are being treated equitably and with respect, and their contributions are acknowledged and valued?
- Have you informed patients of the various roles on the research team and any accountabilities by law and policy that researchers, institutions or funders are responsible for?
- Depending on the roles patients will play, you are encouraged to engage more than one patient.
 Multiple patient voices provide a sense of the diversity and commonality of lived experience, and
 help to balance requirements of the research project with other aspects of life so that patients
 are not over-burdened and can give each other mutual support. Peer-to-peer mentorship
 between those patients with more task-related skills and experience and those with less can also
 be effective. Being the only person on a research team or committee without formal health or
 research-associated training can be intimidating.
- Have you reflected on the generally unspoken but assumed cultural expectations embedded in being researchers and institutional representatives that you may bring to your interactions with patients? Have you taken into account that patients may have divergent expectations around how they interact with researchers?

3.4 Systemic and structural barriers to patient engagement

Certain aspects of the research endeavor present potential systemic and structural barriers to patient involvement on the research team.

Systemic barriers are policies, practices or procedures that result in some people receiving unequal access or being excluded. In terms of participation on research teams, a systemic barrier may be tied to the long lag-times between the phases of the research, from protocol development through funding, ethics review, field work, analysis, and knowledge translation and exchange. Some of these may be addressed through managing patient partner expectations. In other cases, there may be very practical issues around cash flows and the ability to compensate patients for the time invested in the project. Budgeting honoraria for patients to participate in the research may be essential for some. In other cases, providing honoraria may disqualify patients from social benefits. It is also important to budget for food, food restrictions, travel and other expenses.

- 536 Structural barriers are understood as a condition where one category of people is attributed an unequal status in relation to other categories of people. This relationship is perpetuated and reinforced by a confluence of unequal relations in roles, functions, decisions, rights, and opportunities. Poverty, race or lack of education are examples of potential structural barriers.
- There may also be access barriers to meetings for example, curbs or lack of elevators for individuals with mobility issues. There may also be the need to plan breaks to accommodate health needs of the patient partner.

3.4.1 For Patients

544 Consider the following:

- How much time am I able to commit to the project and am I in a position to see the project through to completion? Although the latter may not be an expectation, it should be discussed up front.
- Will my research partners be able to support me? For example:
 - to accommodate any health conditions I have (for example, if needed at meetings, having a medical emergency plan in place, or scheduling breaks between meetings to allow time to rest)?
 - o to help address the financial costs of participation such as lost wages or child care expenses?

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3.4.2 For Researchers, Institutions and Funders

Consider the following:

- Have you ensured all individuals understand processes and procedures about the research project? For example:
 - That there will be considerable lag between protocol development and funding. This
 includes delays associated with the need to revise and re-submit a grant for the next
 grant cycle.
 - That there may also be considerable lag between funding and research ethics review before being able to start the project.
- Have you lessened or removed systemic and/or structural barriers that may inhibit or prevent the participation of patient partners due to their health condition, or their economic or social status? This includes:
 - Physical access barriers.
 - Meeting times and duration for example, the need for a break in a lengthy meeting.
 - Appropriate and sufficient support provided around teleconferences, videoconferences and in-person meetings.
 - Is sufficient training provided for individuals with lower literacy levels whose lived experience is of value to the project?

- o Are funds available to financially support patient partners for the time they have invested in the project during these periods when project funds are not forthcoming?

 This may include:

 Funds available from the funding agency for costs associated with protocol
 - Funds available from the funding agency for costs associated with protocol development.
 - Funds available through the Vice President, Research at a university.
 - In the event that your patient partner is unable to accept financial compensation for participation (e.g., if this would disqualify them for social assistance), what other non-financial compensation could you offer such as providing food at meetings, and covering transportation and accommodation to a conference at which they may be a co-presenter?

3.5 Benefits and harms

Through imparting their lived experiences of illness, patient partners can play a role in regard to increasing research benefits and reducing research harms for the following:

- Themselves as patient partners in the research, such as by identifying their own health needs so that they can be accommodated in the research.
- Research participants studied in the research. Through patient partners' lived experience of illness, they are well positioned to advise other research team members as to potential harms and benefits that the research participants may encounter.
- The general patient population to which the research will be generalized (such as by identifying potential harms from stigmatization and discrimination).
- Knowledge translation and exchange to health care providers and other patients.

3.5.1 For Patients

Ask yourselves:

- How might the research affect me personally, taking into consideration any health conditions I have that could affect my ability to participate; my lived experience and personal feeling of the research topic; and what I am expected to do (and whether these expectations are reasonable)?
- Does the project have mechanisms to support me? For example:
 - o to help me if the research activity triggers stressful memories associated with my lived experience of a health condition or circumstances (for example, arranging to have an Elder help to take care of the team for Indigenous research)?

You may wish to propose that support mechanisms be put in place for you and others in your situation. If supports cannot be made available, you may decide not to participate.

- What are the potential impacts of the research on other patients or my community?
- Is there potential for me to feel strengthened by being engaged in research? For example:
 - o Will I add to my own skills and experience?

- 611 o Can I make a positive contribution for the benefit of other patients, my community and society?
 - Are their potential benefits or harms of the research that my research colleagues may be unaware of?
 - In knowledge transfer, how can I best bring my lived experience of illness and what I learned in the research project to the awareness of community members and their health care providers?

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3.5.2 For Researchers, Institutions and Funders

Consider the following:

- Are you making good use of patient partners as sources of information about benefits and harms of the research that we are conducting or funding?
- Are there mechanisms to hear from patient partners about potential benefits and harms associated with their roles in the research process, and to support them when needed? Have the necessary resources (for example, human, financial and time) been built into the budget?
- When the research activity comes to an end, how will the contributions of patient partners be recognized and celebrated? Can interested patients be assisted to find other opportunities for meaningful engagement?

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3.6 Confidentiality of information

Some information gathered throughout the research lifecycle should be kept confidential—for example, applications submitted for scientific or ethics review or information that would reveal the identities of research participants. Patients, researchers, institutions and funders should ensure that all involved are aware of and have the capacity to uphold all expectations of confidentiality, and that appropriate policies and procedures are in place. Patients may also be a source of expertise with respect to the expectations of particular communities around confidentiality and privacy — for example, in some Indigenous communities, only specific members of a family may be allowed to tell their family stories.

638 <u>3.6.1 For Patients</u>

Questions for patients to ask themselves include:

- What are the expectations for confidentiality associated with the kinds of information I will be dealing with, and what policies and procedures are there?
- Am I prepared to share responsibilities to uphold protections for information provided in confidence? Do I need more support or resources to fulfill my responsibilities?

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3.6.2 For Researchers, Institutions and Funders

646 Consider:

 Are there appropriate policies, procedures, training and supports in place for respecting expectations of confidentiality, and is there a mechanism to deal with breaches of confidentiality? • Does your behaviour manifest the respect for confidentiality that you expect from patient partners?

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Ethics Guidance for Specific Roles in the Research Lifecycle

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The cross-cutting ethical concerns and reflections described in the previous sections are relevant to all roles. This section applies the ethics guidance in the previous section to demonstrate good practices in the context of specific roles throughout the research lifecycle (see key stages of the research lifecycle in the figure below).

We aim to promote broad engagement of patients across **all stages** of the research. For example, an individual patient may be engaged throughout a research project and therefore take on a succession of roles; or different patients may be engaged at different points in the research cycle, depending on the insights or skills they can contribute.

This ethics guidance is principally focused on the engagement of patients in research in roles other than as research participants. However, there may be situations where a patient is also a research participant, and takes on other roles that may be relevant (for example, in a large-scale population health study where patients may be research participants and also have a formal voice on a committee to advise on the overall direction of the study; or where a patient was a research participant for a first phase of a study, and now has an advisory role for a subsequent phase).

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Key stages in the research lifecycle: From priority setting to evaluation, and back to

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Priority setting and planning

Development of the research proposal

Scientific review of the application for funding

Ethics review of the research proposal

Oversight of a research project

Recruitment of research participants

Data collection

Data analysis and interpretation

Translation and exchange of research knowledge

Evaluation and quality assurance

Stage 1: Priority Setting and Planning

Priority setting can take place in various contexts: for example, when a funding agency is developing its strategic plan or a research initiative on a specific emerging issue; when a research centre that is dedicated to a particular health condition or population group is determining how it should invest its funds; or when a research team is at the earliest stages of exploring knowledge gaps and stakeholders' interests to determine a new research direction.

| Examples of Patient Roles: | Guidance: |
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| ✓ Advise on a priority-setting panel ✓ Contribute to a priority-setting workshop ✓ Contribute to interpretations of research outcomes to inform priorities for new | For Patients: Recognize the value of your experience as a patient and actively work to make that knowledge available to the research team. Your perspective can help to identify the ways in which the research can be more useful for patients like you and others. Based on an understanding of your lived experiences and/or those of others in your community, you can contribute insights for research priorities that may influence the emphasis of the projects being considered and benefit a broader group of patients. |
| research ✓ Brainstorm with other members of the research team to identify research questions, study aims, and potential research impacts. | For Researchers, Institutions, and Funders: Engagement of patients can start at the early research stages with building relationships with individual patients and with members of the community of interest, and continue throughout the life of a project. At the initial planning stages of a research activity, build into your budget the resources to meaningfully compensate patients throughout the activity. You may also need to budget for processes to overcome barriers to participation (particularly for those groups of patients that are under-represented in research), and to strengthen the capacities of both patients and researchers for meaningful collaboration. Introducing patient voices into priority setting can open the research to new perspectives and reveal where important needs and knowledge gaps are. Find ways – for example with the help of relevant communities to reach patient groups that are underserved in society and under-represented in research so that their perspectives are taken into account. Patient priorities should be translated collectively into feasible and realistic research goals through open and sustained discussion. |

| Examples of Patient Roles: | Guidance: |
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| ✓ Provide expertise to inform Methods and Knowledge Translation (KT) sections of the proposal ✓ Contribute to the development of informed consent materials, and an understanding of potential impacts of the proposal on patient groups ✓ Build community engagement plans and appropriate Indigenous cultural norms and ways of knowing into the research design ✓ Inform the inclusion criteria for a representative sample of the whole population to be recruited as research participants (known as a sampling strategy) | For Patients: You can shape the design of the research to maximize its usefulness to patients like yourself and others in your community. This implies learning how research unfolds and what is required to maximize the possibility that the knowledge that is created is accurate and incorporates the experiential knowledge of patients, and contributes to improvement. You can make a substantial contribution by suggesting opportunities for different ways of knowing to be included in the research design, such as the lived experience of patients, and the circumstances and traditional knowledge of particular Indigenous communities. You can contribute knowledge about the diversity of patients who are affected by the research topic and this could shape decisions around whose patient experiences will be gathered as part of proposed research. You can inform the development of strategies to recruit patients to participate in the research to minimize barriers to participation. As a patient you should strive to understand and appreciate researchers' perspectives and suggestions with regard to shaping the research application. For Researchers: You should appropriately recognize the contributions of patients to the development of a research proposal, which might go through many versions and different groups of people working on each version, before the application is accepted for funding. It is important to recognize patients who were part of the journey in the development of the proposal. As part of an application for a long-term project, you will need to consider what would be an appropriate governance structure for oversight of the project. Consider where patients' voices are most needed, and will be most effectively heard in this governance structure. For example: a large research project may have a Steering Committ |

Stage 3: Internal and External Scientific Review of the Research Proposal

| Examples of Patient Roles: | Guidance: |
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| ✓ Review research proposals of other teams ✓ Review drafts of their own team's research proposal ✓ Prepare lay summaries of research proposals ✓ Provide feedback on potential impacts on patients of a research proposal ✓ Assess the extent of meaningful patient engagement in the proposal | For Patients: You have an important role in ensuring that the patient's perspective and needs are integrated and used in the review of the research proposal, including leading to relevant outcomes from a patient's perspective. If you do have academic or professional expertise in the area under the review, you will need to focus primarily on bringing the patient perspective. If you are bringing the patient perspective on a funder's scientific peer review committee, ensure that you are informed of appropriate procedures related to confidentiality of the information and the review committee discussions. You will need to be clear to others outside the committee that you are not able to speak about applications under review. For Researchers: Recommend that people with lived experience of the health condition or context under study be members of funders' scientific review committees. |
| | For Research Institutions, Communities, and Funders sponsoring scientific review committees: Include people with lived experience of a health condition on funders' scientific review committees, particularly (but not necessarily only) for funding opportunities for which patient engagement is explicitly encouraged or required in applications. Consider what power dynamics will likely occur on a committee that includes both scientific experts and patients because of such things as the subject matter, and reflect on the guidance in the Cross-Cutting Ethics Concerns section under Power Imbalances. Be clear about expectations and the extent of the patient's influence on the committee's rating of an application. Where appropriate, the quality of the patient engagement plan in an application should have equal weighting with all other components that comprise scientific excellence. Explain to patients and other members of the committee what would constitute a conflict of interest or commitment, and establish a fair and transparent process to manage and minimize conflicts. Ensure there are appropriate policies, procedures, training and support in place for respecting expectations of confidentiality, and a mechanism to deal with breaches. |

Institutions that administer funding from the three main federal granting councils, and their researchers, are required to comply with the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human* (TCPS). TCPS includes a chapter on research involving the First Nations, Inuit or Métis Peoples. Under TCPS, institutions must establish or appoint research ethics boards to review the ethical acceptability of all research involving humans, and these research ethics boards are expected to have at least one community member who has no affiliation with the institution. In addition, for research involving Indigenous Peoples, review by a community research ethics board or the leadership of an Indigenous community may be appropriate.

| Examples of Patient Roles: | Guidance: |
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| ✓ Identify and raise ethics concerns during the review of research proposals by an institutional or community research ethics board ✓ Review informed consent materials, and potential impacts of the proposals on patient groups | For Patients: You can have an important role to play on research ethics boards. You will have a major input in reviewing the proposed consent form and process. Some things to consider are that: There should be evidence that persons who participate in research will do so voluntarily, understanding the purpose of the research, and its risks and potential benefits, as fully as reasonably possible. There should be evidence that prospective participants will be given adequate time and opportunity to understand and ask questions about the information provided in the informed consent process. There should be evidence that the information given to prospective research participants will be presented in a way that facilitates understanding—for example, this could mean having the consent process in the preferred format and language of prospective research participants. On institutional research ethics boards, community members are often seen as having special insights into particular groups and can be seen as speaking for these groups. As a patient in a community member role on an institutional research ethics board, you should be willing to indicate the limits of your knowledge and awareness of groups with which you are identified. For Institutions and Communities The patient on the research ethics board will bring a personal voice and lived experience, which may be different from the views and experience of others. If the patient is being asked to represent the views of other persons or of the community, they will need to be given sufficient opportunities to consult with others, and/or patients can be selected who are members of patient organizations and communities that are organized to provide a collective voice. |

Stage 5: Oversight of a Research Project

A long-term project might have decision-making or advisory boards as part of the project's internal governance structure. A Data and Safety Monitoring Board may be established for some studies as part of the plan to monitor of the safety of research participants.

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| Examples of Patient Roles: | Guidance: |
| ✓ Contribute to oversight of research activities (such as community engagement, recruitment of research participants, and data collection and analysis) during the course of a project ✓ Raise concerns about the safety of research participants | Ensure that you understand how decisions are being made in the committee of which you are a member. There are some decisions in which the patient is the expert and thus should have bigger sway in the process; in other cases, scientific, methodological and technical issues may prevail. Wherever possible, decisions should be made by consensus, or by majority vote. Be aware of the process of decision making and speak up if you feel uncomfortable with the process or the decisions. Data and Safety Monitoring Boards and governance committees need to formulate advice and decisions through a fair and transparent process. Be aware of any other interests, expertise, experience and affiliations that could influence or interfere with your role on the committee and disclose these to the appropriate staff of the committee or the Chair of the committee, so that conflicts of interest can be managed and minimized appropriately. |
| | For Institutions and Communities: Consider how to support patients so that they can be effective members of an advisory or decision-making committee. This can include providing information in lay language, avoiding jargon and acronyms, and providing opportunities at meetings to ask questions and seek clarification. You should ensure that patients are going to see that their participation makes a difference, and that their voices are meaningfully considered among all other voices on the committee. Develop a transparent process for communicating why some advice or input is not being actioned. Establish a fair and transparent process for disclosure of interests, and management of conflicts of interest. When researchers are part of the community they study, there can be pre-existing relationships that need to be considered when determining membership of a committee (for example, whether clinician-researchers and their own patients are comfortable being on the same committee). Decisions on the assignment of roles will need to be negotiated in a respectful, fair and transparent way, and conflicts of interest and roles managed. |

| Examples of Patient Roles: | Guidance: |
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| ✓ Help with coordinating representatives of the community, clinics, individual clinicians, and others, for the recruitment of persons to become research participants ✓ Help with recruiting patients to participate in the research process (for example, by presenting the research project) ✓ Design, write or provide feedback to letters of information and recruitment strategies | As a patient in a research team you may take the lead in recruitment efforts to find appropriate patients, some of whom may rarely participate in research projects. You could have an important role in: commenting on the inclusion criteria (sampling frame) for recruiting potential research participants, adapting a consent form and information, to ensure that it is clear and appropriate for the community (for example, some Indigenous health researchers are implementing a tobacco protocol as a culturally appropriate alternative to a written or verbal informed consent process), helping contact patients, and/or being directly involved in asking people to consent to the research. However, there may be particular kinds of research, such as high risk clinical trials, for which there may be specific requirements about who should be directly involved in asking people to consent to the research. As a patient involved at some level in recruiting other members of the community into the research project, your contribution will lend credibility and legitimacy to the project. Consider the reflections described in the Cross-Cutting Ethical Concerns section under Legitimation to determine your degree of comfort in this role. You should speak up within the research team if you feel that there are conflicts of interests (between your role as a recruiter for research, your role in the community, and any personal relationships with people being recruited) that could interfere with obtaining a truly voluntary consent to the research from others or if you feel your safety might be at risk. Depending upon your role in the community, your mere endorsement or participation in recruitment may constitute undue influence on potential research participants. If this research is on a topic that is sensitive or controversial (for example, because of events in your or your communi |

| Examples of Patient Roles: | Guidance: |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Any personal information collected as part of the consent process (for example, who consented and who did not) must be properly safeguarded. |
| | For Researchers: You will be expected to demonstrate to the satisfaction of a research ethics board that the consent process will be voluntary and informed. If you are considering using a patient partner in the recruitment process, ensure that the person has adequate training and self-awareness for the role so that they do not exercise undue influence. Asking patients (and other community members) to help recruit people may be effective, especially with populations which have traditionally not been involved in research. Patients can provide valuable assistance by: ensuring that the consent process is appropriate to this community (for example, do the form of consent and any information materials reflect the community's language and values?); commenting on the inclusion criteria for the research; helping reach prospective participants; and/or |
| | being directly involved in obtaining consent. In selecting patients to help with recruitment, consider if they represent the community, if they have credibility with the community, and if they have lived experience of the issue under study. All of these factors could be important for successful recruitment. If you are asking patients to be directly involved in the consent process: Patients should be informed of the research goals, and any potential benefits and harms to individuals and to the community as a whole, so that they can communicate this information to prospective research participants in a balanced way. keep in mind that the status of the patient in the community and any pre-existing relationships with the people being recruited can influence the voluntariness of consent. |

Stage 7: Data Collection

| Examples of patient roles: | Guidance: |
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| ✓ Conduct individual and group interviews ✓ Collate and prepare data for analysis | As a member of the research team, your contribution will lend credibility and legitimacy to the project for the community and the funders of the research. Consider the reflections described in the Cross-Cutting Ethical Concerns section under <i>Legitimation</i> to determine your degree of comfort in this role. Research participants may be more comfortable sharing their experiences with you as a peer, than to researchers who may seem far removed from what they, as patients, experience. You will want to negotiate your role in data collection at the beginning of the research project to ensure you are comfortable with what the research team expects of you. You may need some training in the type of data collection involved in the research. As a research team member, you may be privy to confidential information given by research participants. You must respect these confidences and not discuss them with friends and neighbours from your community. You will want to explore the supports available to you as a patient researcher. You may need to fully consider the impact of the experiences of others on your own well-being. Ask for the supports that you need to fullifull this role. For Researchers You will need to be comfortable that the patients on your team have, or acquire, the necessary skills and experience to be involved in data collection (such as an understanding of different data collection methods, avoidance of bias in data collection, accurate documentation, and secure storage of data). Provide appropriate support as needed. Consider the possibility that some research participants would prefer not to be interviewed by a peer. Provide another option where feasible. Patient partners should be appropriately acknowledged in presentations and publications. Steps should be taken to ensure the safety of all members of the research team involved in data collection. Safeguards should be in place for |

Stage 8: Data Analysis and Interpretation

| Examples of patient roles: | Guidance: |
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| ✓ Contribute to analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data ✓ Discuss findings with researchers and other partners ✓ Contribute to the interpretation of research results, bringing a patient voice of lived experience to the study findings ✓ Write analysis reports as appropriate | For Patients You will want to negotiate your role in data analysis and interpretations at the beginning of the research project to ensure you are comfortable with what the research team expects of you, recognizing that this role may evolve over time. You may need some training in the type of analysis and interpretation involved in the research. This is an opportunity to learn how to analyze data, which could be quantitative or qualitative or both. You will want to explore the supports available to you as a patient researcher. Depending on the research topic, analysis and interpretation of data can be traumatic for all researchers, but especially for those with similar lived experience. For Researchers Consider presenting preliminary statistical results to a group of |
| | Consider presenting preliminary statistical results to a group of patients who then "story" the data – add in their interpretations based on lived realities, provide real-world examples to better illustrate and give meaning to a number and may request further analysis. You will need to be comfortable that the patients on your team have or acquire the necessary skills and experience to collaborate on data analysis, and provide appropriate support or training as needed. Patient partners should be appropriately acknowledged in presentations and publications. Consider what services might be provided at an institutional level to enable patient engagement in analysis. For example, in addition to the usual data analysis workshops (for example, coding, NVivo) available for researchers and students, offer workshops geared towards patient and community researchers. |

| Examples of patient roles: | Guidance: |
|---|---|
| ✓ Write articles for a variety of media that disseminates knowledge to different audiences in lay terms, and help identify potentially offensive language and propose alternatives. ✓ Prepare and deliver presentations to disseminate knowledge to different audiences ✓ Assist with the development of alternative or innovative forms of knowledge translation and exchange (for example, performance art, installations, social media) ✓ Discuss implications of new knowledge with health care providers and relevant | You need to be aware that it can take years for study results to appear in an academic journal. This reality can be in conflict with your motivation for taking part in the study: making a difference in people's lives as soon as possible. While the published article lends important legitimacy to engaging patients in research, you are encouraged to work with the research team to develop other means of getting the message out. Negotiate your role in translation and exchange of research knowledge at the beginning of your relationship with the research team, and recognize that this role may evolve over time. Clarify that the resources you need to engage in these activities (for example, access to online library searches; costs of meeting and conference attendance) are covered in the research budget. Negotiate (co)authorship with the research team. If you have been an integral member of the research team and involved in writing an article, you should be listed as an author rather than just acknowledged in the article. Consider the timelines in producing a publishable manuscript in relation to your availability and resources. Become familiar with journals that publish patient engagement articles. |
| communities to identify possible applications ✓ Gather feedback from patient groups on research findings ✓ Work alongside researchers with policy makers when advocacy at the level of the system (for example, to change health policy) is required ✓ Author or co-author reports and scientific articles | Patients may be authors or co-authors of publications if they contribute to the research design, data collection, data interpretation or knowledge translation activities and at a minimum should be acknowledged in presentations and publications. For example, an Elder or Knowledge Holder of Indigenous ancestry could be acknowledged for setting the overall tone of meetings and taking care of a research team, and sometimes providing guidance and insight on particular aspects of the research. Build in resources for patients who make this level of commitment to your study to co-present at conferences. Knowledge translation and exchange is contextual and doing it well with communities often takes consideration, resources and time. Patients can be valuable partners in this endeavor. |

and time. Patients can be valuable partners in this endeavor.

| Examples of patient roles: | Guidance: |
|----------------------------|---|
| | Work alongside patients to translate your study findings directly to patients so that they can use this information to improve their health. Co-authoring and presenting with patients engaged in your research will contribute to the credibility of your work in the research community. Discuss your publication plans with patients engaged in your research and how they want to be involved. If need be, choose appropriate venues for publishing according to your needs (for example, scientific journals and professional journals) and to the needs of patients. Consider journals that publish patient engagement articles. |
| | Institutions Institutions can play an enabling role by providing resources, facilities and training for researchers and patients new to patient-oriented research to collaborate throughout the research process, including in knowledge exchange and translation activities. |

Examples of Patient Roles: ✓ Take an active role in evaluation and quality assurance of the research project as a member of the research team or as a member of an oversight body, bringing a lived experience lens or specific focus. ✓ Be involved in an evaluation process to explore the effectiveness and efficiency of patients being involved in research. ✓ Contribute to the identification of information needs or gaps in existing materials and tools. √ Identify language or materials that are confusing or unhelpful, as well as identify materials that are particularly well formatted and helpful. ✓ Assist with testing and adjusting the materials. ✓ Serve on improvement teams

- with patient safety goals (for example, engaging patients and staff in identifying safety risks, reducing preventable readmissions, medication incidents, falls and infections).
- ✓ Review materials related to improvement initiatives.
- ✓ Help test and adjust new quality and safety processes.
- ✓ Discuss findings of the quality assurance and improvement exercises.
- ✓ Identify improvements to be made to the way research was conducted.
- ✓ Monitor that quality improvements are implemented.

Guidance

For Patients

- Familiarize yourself with the particular evaluation or quality assurance function in which you are involved: identify the terms of reference, who is receiving the advice you will be providing, and your role in this process.
- If evaluating a project that has reached completion, consider how well the research engaged people with lived experience throughout the lifecycle of the project.
- Pay attention to concerns around confidentiality in terms of accessing information from the project and providing advice to those receiving any reports.

For Researchers, Institutions, Funders

Partnering in quality and safety processes involves drawing methods and tools from different domains (for example, patient engagement, quality improvement, project planning, and communications) to clarify purpose, choose the right people and right methods, recruit and orient patient partners into their roles, and support everyone towards equal partnership and effective collaboration.

Real Life Examples of Patient Engagement across the Research Lifecycle

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| Patient engaged in the: | Patient partner roles include: | Internet links |
|---|--|---|
| Can-SOLVE CKD (Chronic Kidney Disease)Network | ✓ Priority setting ✓ Oversight of a research initiative (e.g., see the Patient Council and the Indigenous Peoples' Engagement and Research Council) | https://cansolveckd.ca/ |
| James Lind Alliance: Priority Setting Partnerships | ✓ Priority setting | http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/jla-guidebook/chapter-3/the-features-of-a-jla-priority-setting.htm (Note that the James Lind Alliance brings together clinicians, patients and caregivers to identify research priorities, and does not include engaging patients in the conduct of the research.) |
| Canadian HIV Cure Enterprise (CanCURE) | ✓ Priority setting | https://www.cancurehiv.org/com munity-liaison |
| Living with HIV (LHIV) Innovation Team Grant- Community Scholar Program | ✓ Development of the research proposal | http://www.cihr- irsc.gc.ca/e/49628.html#a2 |
| Strategy for Patient- Oriented Research (SPOR) Networks in Chronic Disease | ✓ Participation on scientific peer review committees for applications for funding | http://www.cihr- irsc.gc.ca/e/49643 |
| American Cancer Society | ✓ Participation on scientific peer review committees for applications for funding | https://www.cancer.org/researc h/we-fund-cancer- research/apply-research- grant/stakeholder-participation- grant-peer-review- committees.html |

| Patient engaged in the: | Patient partner roles include: | Internet links |
|--|--|---|
| Manitoulin Anishinaabek Research Review Committee | ✓ Participation on community review committee | http://www.noojmowin- teg.ca/SitePages/MARRC.aspx |
| Walmsley program of research into HIV and Healthy Aging | ✓ Oversight of a research initiative (e.g., see the Community Advisory Committees) | https://academic.oup.com/ije/ar ticle/42/2/402/732813/Cohort- Profile-The-Ontario-HIV- Treatment-Network |
| Patient and Community Engagement Research (PaCER) unit, O'Brien Institute for Public Health, University of Calgary | ✓ Priority setting and planning ✓ Development of the research proposal ✓ Recruitment of research participants ✓ Data collection ✓ Data analysis and interpretation ✓ Translation an exchange of research knowledge (Engagement Researchers in the PaCER program have published PaCER research that was embedded in larger research projects in peer reviewed journals such as The Patient-Patient Centered Outcomes Research; PLoS ONE; Health Expectations; BMJ Open; and Critical Care Medicine. They have also coauthored articles with their research teams). | https://pacerinnovates.ca |

| 723 | Additional Resources |
|-----|---|
| 724 | |
| 725 | Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) CIHR Peer Review Manual for Grant Applications, Section |
| 726 | 6.2.3 http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/4656.html#s3 6 2 3 |
| 727 | HIV Community-Based Research (CBR) Fact Sheet #3- Managing Multiple Roles and Boundaries (2014) |
| 728 | http://www.hivethicscbr.com/documents/HIVCBREthics_FactSheet03.pdf |
| 729 | HIV Community-Based Research (CBR) Fact Sheet #2- Recruiting Hard to Reach Individuals and |
| 730 | Communities in CBR http://www.hivethicscbr.com/documents/HIVCBREthics_FactSheet02.pdf |
| 731 | |
| 732 | National Health Service (NHS) Handbook for Researchers: Patient and public involvement in health and |
| 733 | social care research. |
| 734 | www.sheffieldclinicalresearch.org/download//RDS PPI%20Handbook web.pdf |
| 735 | The Patient – Patient Centered Outcomes Research https://link.springer.com/journal/40271 |
| 736 | Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans 2 nd Edition (TCPS 2): |
| 737 | Policy statement: http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2- |
| 738 | eptc2/Default/ |
| 739 | • CORE Education module: http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/ |
| 740 | Wellesley Peer Research- Peer Research in Action III: Ethical Issues, |
| 741 | http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Ethical_Issues_WEB.pdf |
| | |

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| 744 | American Cancer Society- Stakeholder Participation on Grant Peer Review Committees- |
| 745 | https://www.cancer.org/research/we-fund-cancer-research/apply-research-grant/stakeholder |
| 746747 | participation-grant-peer-review-committees.html |
| 748 749 750 | Anderson, J. A., Swatzky-Girling, B., McDonald, M., Pullman, D., Saginur, R., Sampson, H. A., and Willison, D. J. "Research Ethics, Broadly Writ", <i>Health Law Review</i> 19, 3, 2011, 12-24. |
| 751 752 753 754 | Brascoupé, S. and Waters, C., "Cultural Safety – Exploring the Applicability of the Concept of Cultural Safety to Aboriginal Health and Community Wellness", Journal of Aboriginal Health, November 2009. http://www.naho.ca/documents/journal/jah05_02/05_02_01_Cultural.pdf |
| 755 | British Columbia First Nations Health Authority. Definition of cultural humility. Web site: |
| 756 757 | http://www.fnha.ca/wellness/cultural-humility#learn |
| 758 | Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Peer Review Manual for Grant Applications, Section 6.2.3 |
| 759 760 | http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/4656.html#s3 6 2 3 |
| 761 | Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Definition of knowledge translation: http://www.cihr- |
| 762 | irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html |
| 763 | |
| 764 | Ermine, Willie, "Ethical space in action", Video. McMaster University, 2010. |
| 765 766 | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85PPdUE8Mb0 |
| 767 | Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada Guidelines on Public Engagement. |
| 768 | http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/health-system-systeme-sante/guidelines- |
| 769 | public-engagement-publique-lignes-directrice/index-eng.php |
| 770 | |
| 771 | HIV Community-Based Research (CBR) Fact Sheet #2- Recruiting Hard to Reach Individuals and |
| 772 | Communities in CBR http://www.hivethicscbr.com/documents/HIVCBREthics FactSheet02.pdf |
| 773 | |
| 774 | HIV Community-Based Research (CBR) Fact Sheet #3- Managing Multiple Roles and Boundaries (2014) |
| 775 | http://www.hivethicscbr.com/documents/HIVCBREthics_FactSheet03.pdf |
| 776 | |
| 777 | James Lind Alliance: Priority Setting Partnerships: http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/jla-guidebook/chapter- |
| 778 | 3/the-features-of-a-jla-priority-setting.htm. |
| 779 | |

| 780 | National Health Service (NHS) Handbook for Researchers: Patient and public involvement in health and |
|------------|--|
| 781 | social care research. http://www.rds- |
| 782 | london.nihr.ac.uk/RDSLondon/media/RDSContent/files/PDFs/RDS_PPI-Handbook_web_1.pdf |
| 783 | |
| 784 785 | Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Foundational Curriculum for Patient-Oriented Research [link when available]. |
| 786 | turn track a tambara, |
| 787 | Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, 2 nd Edition, 2014 (TCPS 2) |
| 788 | http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/ |
| 789 | |
| 790 | Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, 2 nd Edition, 2014 (TCPS 2) |
| 791 | CORE Tutorial. http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/) |
| 792 | |
| 793 | Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research, Section 2.1 Tri-Agency Research Integrity |
| 794 | Policy. http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/framework-cadre/ |
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| 796 | University of Ottawa. Definition of cultural competence. Web site: |
| 797 | https://www.med.uottawa.ca/sim/data/Serv Culture e.htm |
| 798 | |
| 799 | Wellesley Peer Research- Peer Research in Action III: Ethical Issues. |
| 800 | http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Ethical_Issues_WEB.pdf |
| 801 | |
| 802 | United Kingdom, Department of Health, "The expert patient: a new approach to chronic disease |
| 803 | management for the 21st century", 2001. |
| 804 | http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistic |
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