

Patient Partner Compensation and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Why is this project important?

- Health research in Canada is increasingly moving towards engaging patients as partners in knowledge production.
- An ongoing challenge in patient engagement is how best to compensate patient partners for their time and expertise, considering a range of personal and financial circumstances and various institutional barriers.
- Previous research has discussed obstacles to effectively compensating patient partners for their engagement but has not adequately examined the intersections between compensation practices and equity, diversity & inclusion (EDI).
- Our study aims to fill this gap by identifying compensation-related barriers and facilitators to patient engagement and exploring how current compensation practices may limit or promote EDI in academic health research.



What are we doing?

- Maximum variation sampling is being used to recruit geographically and socially diverse representation from four groups from across the spectrum of patient-oriented research: patient partners, health researchers, academic administration and finance employees, and health research funding organization staff.
- Virtual interviews and focus groups centre participants' experiences with compensation.
- We are applying inductive thematic analysis to explore experiences and identify solutions to compensation practices that challenge equitable patient engagement.

How will this help?

- Study results will help inform policies and improve practices surrounding patient partner compensation in health research, including those directed at EDI.
- This in turn is expected to boost diverse and equitable patient engagement, contributing to higher quality research outputs and, ultimately, improvements in population health outcomes and health equity.

Who can I contact?

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