



## Reporting patient and public involvement in research

The BMJ is encouraging active patient and public involvement in clinical research as part of its [patient partnership strategy](#). This is research which is "co produced" **with** patients, carers, or members of the public. Patient involvement in this context is not about being a research participant, answering surveys, or being an interviewee. It encompasses setting research priorities, defining research questions and outcome measures, providing input into study design and conduct, dissemination, or results and evaluation.

To support co production of research we request that authors provide a **Patient and Public Involvement** statement in the methods section of their papers. We request this to both encourage the movement and ensure that BMJ readers can easily see whether, and if so how, patients and the public were involved in the research. If they were not involved in any way this information should be formally documented in the **Patient and Public Involvement** statement.

As co production of research with patients and the public is relatively new we appreciate that not all authors will have involved them in their studies. We also appreciate that patient / public involvement may not be feasible or appropriate for all papers. We therefore continue to consider papers where they were not involved.

The **Patient and Public Involvement** statement should provide a brief response to the following questions, tailored as appropriate for the study design reported:

- *At what stage in the research process were patients/public first involved in the research and how?*
- *How were the research question(s) and outcome measures developed and informed by their priorities, experience, and preferences?*
- *How were patients/public involved in the design of this study?*
- *How were they involved in the recruitment to and conduct of the study?*
- *Were they asked to assess the burden of the intervention and time required to participate in the research?*

In addition to considering the points above we advise authors to look at guidance for best reporting of patient and public involvement as set out in the [GRIPP2](#) reporting checklist.

Even if patients were not involved in the study described, we suggest that you consider enlisting their help in disseminating the research findings.

**If information detailing whether there was patient and public involvement, or not, is missing in the submitted manuscript we will request authors to provide it.**

Where they have been involved we consider it good practice for authors to name and thank them in the contributorship statement after seeking their permission to do so; and to clearly identify them as patient/public contributors. When they have contributed substantially and meet authorship criteria they should be invited to coauthor the manuscript.

Please note also note that it's *The BMJ* policy to send relevant research papers for review by patient reviewers alongside academic peer reviewers.

**Links to selected examples of Patient and Public Involvement statements in published BMJ research papers showing patient and carer involvement at various stages of the research process.**

- [Comparison of the two most commonly used treatments for pyoderma gangrenosum: results of the STOP GAP randomised controlled trial](#)
- [Evidence based community mobilization for dengue prevention in Nicaragua and Mexico](#)
- [Computerised cognitive behaviour therapy \(cCBT\) as treatment for depression in primary care \(REEACT trial\): large scale pragmatic randomised controlled trial.](#)
- [Real world effectiveness of warfarin among ischemic stroke patients with atrial fibrillation: observational analysis from Patient-Centered Research into Outcomes Stroke Patients Prefer and Effectiveness Research \(PROSPER\) study.](#)

**Example PPI statements to adapt for use in a paper**

[Examples to guide the wording for PPI statements](#)