

Research and Development Board Patient and Public Representative

Job description

About the Role

The East and North Hertfordshire Teaching NHS Trust is seeking two members of the public to join the Research and Development Board as Patient and Public Representatives (sometimes known as lay members).

This is an important opportunity for patients, carers, service users and members of the public to influence how research is developed, prioritised and delivered across the Trust. We are looking for people who can bring independent perspectives, constructive challenge, and insight from the communities we serve.

Research is central to improving patient care. The Trust's research strategy aims to ensure more people can participate in and benefit from research, that research is inclusive and responsive to local needs, and that patients and the public are genuine partners in shaping research activity. You can find out more information on our [website](#).

Purpose of the Role

To ensure that the views, experiences and priorities of patients, carers and local communities are represented in discussions relating to our research strategy, research culture and participation, patient and public involvement, equality and inclusion, and service improvement.

Key Responsibilities

- Contribute to discussions about the Trust's research strategy and future priorities
- Provide a patient and public perspective on research-related proposals and developments
- Help ensure that research reflects the needs and priorities of local communities
- Read meeting papers and participate actively in meetings

- Ask questions and provide constructive challenges
- Promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in research
- Champion opportunities for wider community participation in research

What We Are Looking For

Essential:

- Interest in healthcare research and service improvement.
- Commitment to representing patient and public perspectives.
- Desire to contribute constructively to discussions.
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

Desirable:

- Experience as a patient, carer or service user.
- Community, voluntary or advocacy experience.
- Knowledge of local communities.

Our Commitment to Inclusion

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and experiences, particularly those whose voices are often under-represented in healthcare and research.

Previous research experience is not required and support will be provided.

Support Available

Successful applicants will receive induction, training, and ongoing support from the Research & Development Team, and reasonable adjustments where required.

Financial compensation will be made available in accordance with national guidance issued by NHS England.

Time Commitment

Quarterly meetings of up to two hours, usually held via Microsoft Teams, plus time to review meeting papers. Lay Members will attend the Trust's Research and Development Board meetings, where research strategy, performance, governance and priorities are discussed. There may also be opportunities for additional involvement, such as visiting hospital sites to discuss research activities.

Who Attends the Research and Development Board?

The Board includes senior clinical, nursing, pharmacy, operational and finance leaders, alongside Patient and Public Representatives. Chaired by the Medical Director, it oversees the Trust's research strategy, governance and development. Patient and Public Representatives are full members and contribute an important public perspective.

Why Become a Patient and Public Representative?

This role offers an opportunity to influence the future direction of research, help ensure research reflects the needs of patients and local communities, and contribute to improving healthcare for current and future generations.