



**THE LAY ADVISORY PANEL FOR DIABETES & ENDOCRINE RESEARCH –  
INFORMATION SHEET**

**What is the Academic Directorate of Diabetes and Endocrinology?**

The Diabetes & Endocrinology Directorate was formed in 2009, and has a focus on combining high quality patient-focused research with clinical care.

The Academic Directorate of Diabetes & Endocrinology is interested in finding out more about diabetes and endocrine disorders and how to treat patients them. The focus of our research is on patients with diabetes (Type I and Type II) or patients who have an endocrine disorder, for example a neuroendocrine tumour, adrenal or a pituitary disease.

**What is the purpose of the Lay Advisory Panel?**

The main purpose of the Lay Advisory Panel is to ensure that research carried out within the Directorate is patient focused.

**Who can become a member of the Panel?**

Members of the panel can be former or current patients who have:

- Type I or Type II diabetes
- Diabetic neuropathy
- An endocrine disorder
- Been involved in clinical trials or diabetes/endocrine research studies

***Panel members may also be carers or relatives of patients with any of the above conditions.***

**If I became a Panel member what would I have to do?**

As a Panel member you would be expected to take part in discussions at Panel or project meetings to ensure that patient and carer priorities are reflected. You may also be involved in:

- helping to develop patient information literature
- advising on the recruitment of research participants into clinical trials
- advising on ways of sharing research results
- representing the lay public at research meetings
- involvement in identifying research priorities

**How often would I be expected to attend?**

Panel Meetings are held once every three months (quarterly), with communication by email and/or telephone in between meetings if necessary. You may, if you wish, occasionally be involved in other meetings within the hospital or elsewhere.

### **Do I need any qualifications?**

You do not need any formal qualifications to become a Panel member, although experience of serving on a committee or links with patient networks would be an advantage.

You will be given induction training as well as ongoing training and support. If required, you may have a mentor who may be a member of staff or an experienced Panel member.

### **Why do it?**

People decide to get involved in research for a variety of reasons for example:

- You may have personal knowledge and experience which you would like the research to take into account
- You may want a chance to give something back and help influence research to benefit others.
- You may like the opportunity to develop personal skills or to help to bring about improvements in health care

### **What would I get out of it?**

People who have been involved in research have described many positive benefits of getting involved which include: learning about research and the topic being researched, developing a broader understanding of why research matters, developing practical skills, the satisfaction of making a contribution and helping to improve services<sup>1</sup>.

### **Who do I contact for further information?**

If you would like further information about the Diabetes & Endocrine Lay Advisory Panel, please contact either:

**xxx**

**xxx**

If you have internet access and would like to read more about getting involved in research generally, please visit the INVOLVE website <http://www.invo.org.uk/>

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<sup>1</sup> From the National Institute for Health Research, INVOLVE, Public Information Pack  
<http://www.invo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/PIP1whatisitalabout.pdf>