

Role description for Surgery Socioeconomic Project PPI (Patient and Public Involvement) Panel members

Background:

A PPI panel is being set up to help with work on an 18-month project entitled "Investigating socioeconomic and geographical disparities in vascular surgery rates and outcomes in England" which commenced in December 2020. The project will also look at ethnic disparities in vascular surgery rates and outcomes and is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

Vascular services provide specialist surgical treatment and care for patients with a range of conditions which affect blood vessels, principally conditions which affect arteries in the neck (carotid arteries), the main artery in the abdomen (aorta) and arteries and veins in the legs.

The project involves using anonymised hospital admissions data from 2006-2018 covering the whole of England. Analysis is being carried out to investigate how social and economic circumstances, geography and ethnicity influence the use of vascular services, and their effects on how long patients survive after surgery.

What will the PPI panel do?

The purpose of the panel, which will comprise around 10 patients and members of the public, is to provide patient and public perspectives on aspects such as the analysis and understanding of results. The panel will also be involved in helping us share the results with a wide audience.

Who will be involved?

The aim is to set up a diverse panel that can provide a range of viewpoints and lived experiences relating to social, economic and ethnic experiences of surgical healthcare.

Although the project itself is focussed on vascular services, our work will impact on other areas of surgery. The project group already includes a patient who has experience of vascular services.

Can I get involved?

As we already have a patient representative with experience of cardiovascular surgery, we are looking for patients, carers or members of the public with experience of other types of surgery (for example orthopaedic surgery, bowel surgery, cataract

surgery, breast surgery, gynaecological surgery and prostate surgery amongst others).

Having a panel with a wide variety of experiences will help to provide insight into the wider implications of any findings, and how these might apply to other areas of surgery.

You do not need to have any experience of research; all you need is an interest in health research and a desire to help ensure equal access to surgery and improved outcomes for all patients.

How will the research be useful?

The results will be relevant to government policy makers when the government develops its “levelling up” policy agenda in relation to health and social care in order to reduce health inequalities.

In addition, bids for funding for new projects will be considered through the course of this project and the panel’s input will be sought in the development of these bids.

What will I have to do?

It is anticipated that panel members will be given the opportunity to contribute through a variety of means e.g. group meetings online (or in person after the pandemic ends), individual meetings, or written contributions through email. We can be flexible and would like you to be involved in the way that works best for you.

The plan is to have 2-3 whole panel meetings throughout the course of the project.

Panel members will be asked to prepare for meetings by reading through paperwork sent out in advance of the meetings, and to comment on any material where input is requested (e.g. information for sharing the findings with the public).

Panel members will be expected to treat all the material shared with them as confidential and to maintain confidentiality throughout and after the project.

Panel members will also be expected to declare any conflicts of interest.

How much time is expected?

It may be a little busier in some periods of the year. Panel meetings may take 1-2 hours, with some time needed before the meetings for preparation. There may also be some time needed in between panel meetings for ad hoc requests if required. Panel members would not be expected to attend all meetings or to respond to all requests.

What will we do and how will we support you?

Panel members will be offered an initial meeting to discuss their role and any questions they may have with no obligation to get involved in the project.

We can direct you to suitable information or training to ensure you feel confident and supported to be involved in this project.

Panel members will be kept informed of progress on the project through regular short briefing reports.

The named contact for all panel members will be Louese Dunn (Louese.dunn@nhs.net, 07776546070). Panel members are encouraged to contact Louese with any questions they may have or to discuss any issues.

How long will the role last?

We would like you to be involved for the duration of the project (approximately 18 months) but this may be extended if funding is secured for future related projects.

We understand personal circumstances can change, so if you are unable to continue with your participation you can withdraw from the panel at any time. You can discuss any issues with Louese during the lifetime of the project if anything changes.

Will there be payment for time and expenses?

We will gift £20 for pre-reading and time costs for each online panel meeting. Reimbursement will be in the form of vouchers for you to spend at Amazon/Meadowhall/Supermarket of your choice. We will ask for your preference at the end of the meeting.

When we are able to hold face to face meetings we will also provide food and refreshments. There may also be payment for reviewing anything outside of the main meetings.

What qualifications do I need?

You will need to have had or are awaiting any type of surgery e.g. bowel, orthopaedic, urological, gynaecological or any other surgery (but not cardiovascular surgery), or be a carer or relative of a patient who has had surgery.

However, you could instead be a member of the wider public with relevant experience of patient and public involvement in health care, especially in terms of diversity and inclusiveness.

You should be trustworthy and be able to maintain confidentiality, and also be respectful of diverse views.

Some knowledge of how the NHS works would be helpful, as would the ability to communicate well and provide constructive feedback. You would need to be able to use email and the Internet for online meetings.

Who can I contact for further details?

If you would like any further information, or would like to discuss the role further, please contact Louese Dunn: louese.dunn@nhs.net or 07776546070

What is the closing date and how will applicants be selected?

The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 19th May 2021**.

We will hold an initial meeting to discuss the role. In the event that too many people apply, we will select members so that the panel has diverse participation, including range of surgery experienced and sociodemographic background.