

Recruitment of Patient and Public Voice partners onto NHS England Patient Safety Groups – outline of role and expectations

The Patient Safety Expert Groups have been established by NHS England to provide senior clinical advice to the commissioning system, support NHS England's priorities in patient safety and lead on the development and dissemination of advice and guidance for both commissioners and providers. There are currently seven patient safety expert groups for surgery, medicine, child health, mental health, primary care, women's health and learning disabilities. A Patient Safety Steering Group has also been established which provides oversight of and an accountability framework for the work of the Patient Safety Expert Groups.

There are currently vacancies for patient and public voice representatives on the Patient Safety Steering Group and on the Patient Safety Expert Groups for Children and Young People, Medical, Mental Health and Women's Health.

For all of the Groups, patient and public voice representatives will:

- Provide a patient, carer, service user, 'lay person' and / or citizen perspective to inform the work of the Group;
- Support wider engagement with stakeholders and patients; and
- Input into the identification and prioritisation of safety issues, and any subsequent development work.

Representatives will need to have an understanding and broad interest in patient safety as well as a high level understanding of the NHS and Social Care structure.

The Patient Safety Expert Groups and Patient Safety Steering Group will be involved in national patient safety issues rather than operational issues (which are addressed at Trust or clinical unit level) so the ability to engage at a national level with senior leaders over strategic issues is essential. Patient and public voice representatives should have previous experience of representing patient voices on senior forums.

A willingness to advise and provide a perspective on wider issues, outside of their own immediate experience, is required, as well as the ability to translate personal experience into other settings and circumstances. Representatives must demonstrate an overall commitment to improving patient safety across the health and care system.

It is anticipated that the patient and public voice representatives will – collectively – contribute the following important perspectives into the work of the Groups:

- Personal experiences, as patients, carers or service users;
- The experiences of different communities or groups of patients / service users;
- Issues relating to improving equality and diversity;

- Recommendations as to how patients and carers should be involved in design of new systems, policies, procedures and guidelines;
- Insight into the information and understanding that patients require when receiving treatment.

Representatives may belong to a health care related charity or voluntary sector organisation and provide a voice on behalf of the organisation (as well as contributing a wider patient and public voice perspective as outlined above), or may be recruited as individuals who do not represent any organisation or group.

If you are interested in applying for one of these roles, please read the application pack and then complete an application form. These can be requested from Paola Brolis (Patient Safety Business Manager, NHS England) by emailing p.brolis@nhs.net or telephone 07500991250.

The **closing date** for applications is **Friday 11th September 2015**.