

FAMILY RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS: Guiding Principles for Success

A successful relationship between researchers and family partners is built on transparency, a shared vision, and trust. Here are seven fundamental principles to guide the process.

EQUITY

- Value experience and expertise.
- Reimburse for expenses like parking.
- Compensate for time and contributions.
- Budget for additional costs for necessary expenses like child care, interpreters, etc.
- Sharing insights and collaborating for improvement and change.

[Decision Tool for Patient Compensation](#)

FLEXIBILITY

- Schedule meetings that accommodate work/family obligations.
- Establish a variety of meeting venues such as in person, video, or teleconference.
- Expect and adapt to family emergencies or unexpected circumstances.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS

- Establish a shared vision right from the start.
- Conduct an orientation to develop goals, expectations and time frame.
- Cultivate open dialogue.
- Maintain transparency across the team.

[Patients Canada](#)

ETHICS

- What are the moral principles that will guide your work?
- Minimizing risk and harm
- Informed Consent
- Integrity
- Fairness
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- The Right to Withdraw

[Best Practices for Patient Engagement](#)

EMPATHY

- Establish realistic timelines.
- Respect the potentially personal or emotional nature of requests to partners.
- Provide the opportunity to understand each other's perspective.
- This offers insight and strengthens rapport among partners.

COMMUNICATION

- Develop a process for decision making
- Employ various modes of communication
- Avoid jargon as much as possible
- Create space for discussion
- Check in regularly and in a timely way
- Build trust in the process

RESPECT

Valuing the important contributions of both researcher(s) and family partner(s)

Collaboration will be enhanced by:

- A purposeful partnership
- The organization and structure of the partnership
- The tone of your communication
- Appreciation of perspective and expertise