Faculty of
Pharmaceutical Medicine

PATIENT COLLABORATION POLICY



OCTOBER 2026

Faculty of
Pharmaceutical Medicine
of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

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Patient Collaboration Policy

This Patient Collaboration Policy ensures the patient (and public) voice is meaningfully embedded in the work of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine (FPM) through collaboration with patients and patient organisations. This policy aligns with FPM's mission to develop and maintain competence, ethics and integrity in the specialty for the 'benefit of the public'.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to define the principles and practices for engaging patients (patients, patient advocates and caregivers) and patient organisations in FPM's activities, including education, research, and policy development. The scope encompasses all interactions with patients and patient organisations to ensure they are conducted ethically, transparently, respectfully, and effectively.

Guiding Principles

- **Patient-Centred Approach**: Recognise patients as essential partners whose insights, knowledge and experiences are invaluable in shaping pharmaceutical medicine.
- **Transparency**: Maintain openness in all engagements, including clear communication about objectives, expectations, and potential outcomes.
- **Mutual Respect**: Acknowledge and respect the knowledge, experiences, and perspectives that participants bring to the table.
- **Ethical Conduct**: Ensure all interactions are ethical and respectful, safeguarding patient autonomy and confidentiality.
- **Clarity of Purpose:** Each party should be clear about the reason for and the planned outcome of the collaboration – preventing patient engagement being a "check box" exercise.

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Objectives

- **FPM Leading the way:** FPM should be the leading example of an organisation that embeds patient-centredness into its policy development activities.
- **Incorporate Patient Insights**: Integrate patient perspectives into the development of educational programmes, research initiatives, and policy formulations to enhance relevance and impact.
- **Enhance Communication**: Foster open and effective communication channels between FPM, patients, and patient organisations.
- **Promote shared learning**: Encourage bi-directional learning and development opportunities for FPM, its members, patients, and patient organisations.

Engagement Strategies and Implementation Framework

- **Collaborative Partnerships**: Establish partnerships with patients and patient organisations to co-create educational content, research projects, and policy recommendations.
- **Patient Partnership Forum**: The continued running of the FPM Patient Partnership Forum comprising patient voice representatives and pharmaceutical experts to provide ongoing input and feedback on various FPM policy workstreams.
- **Educational Workshops**: Conduct workshops and seminars to educate patients about pharmaceutical medicine and gather their insights, as well as to demonstrate to physicians the expertise and lived experiences that patients bring to the practice of pharmaceutical medicine.
- **Training and Development**: Provide training for FPM staff and volunteers on effective patient engagement practices, emphasizing the importance of patient involvement in all aspects of pharmaceutical medicine.
- **Resource Allocation**: Allocate necessary resources, including time and funding, to support the activities of the Patient Partnership Forum.
- **Evaluation and Feedback**: Implement mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of patient engagement efforts and incorporate feedback for continuous improvement.
- **Conflict of Interest Management**: Identify and manage any potential conflicts of interest to maintain the integrity of engagements.

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Remuneration

- **Overarching principle**: No patient contributor/representative should be 'out of pocket' for their contributions.
- **Travel expenses**: FPM will reimburse the Patient Partnership Forum members (FPM members and patient representatives) for travel expenses they incur, in line with the FPM Travel Policy.
- **FPM Annual Conference:** Patient Partnership Forum patient representatives will be offered complimentary tickets to FPM's Annual Conference for either in-person, or online. Travel expenses will not be offered for attending in-person.
- **Discounted FPM event tickets**: Patient Partnership Forum patient representatives will be offered discounted tickets to other FPM events.
- **Qualifying criteria:** To qualify for the discount ticket and free ticket to the Annual Conference (for patient representative members only), members of the Forum must be active contributors, which includes attending at least one meeting a year.

Monitoring and Reporting

- **Documentation**: Maintain thorough records of all patient engagement activities, including objectives, participants, outcomes, and follow-up actions.
- **Regular Reporting**: Provide updates on patient engagement activities to FPM's Senior Management Team, and FPM Board, highlighting successes, challenges, and areas for improvement.

Continuous Improvement

- **Feedback Mechanisms**: Establish channels for the Patient Partnership Forum to provide feedback on engagement processes and experiences.
- **Forum effectiveness:** Regular review and evaluation of the Patient Partnership Forum to ensure that it delivers its proposed aims and objectives.
- **Policy Review**: Regularly review and update the Patient Collaboration Policy to reflect evolving best practices and stakeholder expectations.

This policy demonstrates FPM's commitment to meaningful patient engagement, ensuring that patient perspectives are integral to its mission and activities.

28 October 2026