



FAQ's for investigators integrating stakeholder engagement in their Mid-South CDRN proposals.

What are the stakeholders looking for when reviewing my grant?

Background: Study proposals for patient-centered outcomes research should include stakeholder engagement sections and/or descriptive text where investigators describe how various stakeholders will have meaningful involvement in the work. Stakeholders include patients, caregivers and health providers and others who are impacted by the research process and/or outcomes. Stakeholders may be engaged in all stages of the research process including developing the research question, choosing study outcomes that are patient centered, helping with subject recruitment strategies, disseminating the research findings and a host of other activities. Meaningful stakeholder engagement can enhance the practicality and relevance of research.

Most proposals are reviewed by traditional grant reviewers; a variety of funding agencies also involve community, patient and other stakeholder groups as reviewers.

The Mid-South CDRN, includes a Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) which reviews proposals for observational and interventional research. The SAC, which includes patients and caregivers will provide the PI and research team with feedback and recommendations on patient engagement and dissemination plans for the study. This FAQ document shares some of the basics about what the reviewers are looking for in proposals that come through the Mid-South CDRN.

I. What is the purpose of this review? To provide guidance to investigators from seasoned stakeholders regarding a proposal's stakeholder engagement plans and text.

II. What are the key criteria that the stakeholder reviewers are looking for to assess the level and authenticity of stakeholder engagement in CDRN proposals?

- The project/grant outcomes includes outcomes that are important to patients.
- Patients and other key community stakeholders are included in designing the study.
- Patients and other key community stakeholders are involved in implementation of the study.
- Patients and other key community stakeholders are involved in governance/monitoring study conduct and progress.
- Patients and other key community stakeholders are involved in planning and implementing dissemination activities.
- The research protocol does not put unnecessary burden on research participants.

III. What are the actual questions the stakeholder reviewers use to assess the level and/or relevance

Reviewer Criteria and Questions developed based on the PCORI Board of Governors' Criteria for Patient Centeredness. Source: PCORI (2012, May 8) *Patient-Centered Outcomes Research* Retrieved from <https://www.pcori.org/research-results/patient-centered-outcomes-research>

of patient centeredness, engagement, and dissemination in proposals?

1. Does the research proposal take into account patient/ stakeholder concerns, priorities or values? (Y/N), If no, please explain proposal's weakness in reflecting patients/stakeholder concerns, priorities or values.
2. Does this research have the potential to address patient-centered outcomes or community health concerns? (Y/N), If no, please explain proposal's weakness in addressing patient-centered outcomes or community health concerns.
- 3a. Does the project have a dissemination plan or intend to share research findings? (Y/N/Unsure)
- 3c. Is/Are the method(s) used to share information with the patients and/or community appropriate for the target audience(s)? (Y/N/Unsure)
- 3d. Does the dissemination plan include sharing information with patients or the community? (Y/N/Unsure), Please explain any weaknesses regarding the proposal's dissemination plan.
4. Are key collaborators included in the proposal? (Y/N)
(Key collaborators can include: patient/stakeholder partners, community partners, or researchers from various disciplines i.e., psychology, nursing, social work, nutrition, sociology), If no, please explain which key collaborators are missing or are potentially beneficial to increase the patient-centeredness of the proposal.
5. Based on the overall patient-centeredness of the proposal, do you approve or suggest a follow-up is needed? (Approve/Follow Up Needed)
Please take the following into consideration:
 - Roles and contributions of stakeholders in the overall proposal
 - Consideration of importance/relevance to study population
 - Plans for disseminating research results
6. Please comment on the overall patient-centeredness of the proposal, listing any other strengths/weakness or questions regarding the proposal.

III. What are some other resources to help investigators develop appropriate stakeholder engagement strategies for their research plans?

1. Sample "Engagement Plans from PCORI Funded Projects:
<https://www.pcori.org/sites/default/files/PCORI-Sample-Engagement-Plans.pdf>
2. Multiple other great resources are on the PCORnet commons site. Please see:
<http://pcornetcommons.org/resources/>
2. Mid-South CDRN Stakeholder Engagement web site.
<https://midsouthcdrn.mc.vanderbilt.edu/about/stakeholder-engagement/>