

Guidelines for reporting the impact of patient and public involvement in research:

Strengthening the evidence base of patient and public involvement

Summary, 6 December 2010

Patient and public involvement (PPI) in health services and in research is encouraged by current policy and practice, with many papers now published in this topic. We undertook two systematic reviews of evidence, one focused on the impact of patient and public involvement in health and social care research (Brett et al 2009) and one focused on patient and public involvement in health and social care services (Mockford et al 2009). Both reviews identified a range of impacts, but a key difficulty was the poor reporting of impact data, which made it very difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of PPI. As the reviews progressed it became apparent that there is a need for greater consistency in reporting and that guidance is required to enhance overall reporting quality and strengthen the future PPI evidence base, in the same way that the CONSORT guidance has strengthened the quality of clinical trials reporting. We have taken the first step in developing guidance for PPI impact reporting, based on the reviews, which aims to help researchers, users, editors and others to ensure that key information is included in studies. We are now working with EQUATOR to secure funding to begin the process of consensus development.

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