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Voices
Network

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BC PATIENT SAFETY & QUALITY COUNCIL

How to “Sell” your Experience in an RSVP

The RSVP process is a chance for you to showcase yourself to the health care partner (HCP). This guide provides an overview of information that you can include, and how to do so.

There’s an opportunity that you think would be interesting for you and would benefit from your involvement. Your RSVP responses are the primary tool that health care partners use to decide which patient partner will be the best fit for their opportunity. Below are some principles to think about as you write short and informative responses.

Keep your answers shorth and simple: 300 words or fewer. Share information that you feel is relevant and highlights what you can bring to the table (i.e., skills, passions, and experiences that you have), without sending in a detailed resume or online profile.

Consider how much personal information you want to share in your response, and ensure it relates to the opportunity: For example, if you are expressing interest in cancer services, you may not need to talk about your experience with your heart disease.

Try to focus your responses to align with the criteria of the opportunity: Health care partners may not have time to fully read and understand information that isn’t related to what they need from patient partners. This demonstrates your ability to distil complexity (your life!) into a coherent snapshot that anyone can easily understand.

Use complete sentences and the best grammatical writing style that you can. Use your responses to demonstrate your writing ability, personality, and communications style.

Remember that your information will be shared directly with the health care partner who is leading the opportunity. While PVN’s engagement leaders may have the privilege of getting to know you, the health care partner may not have, so think of the RSVP information you share as a brief introduction to a someone new – what key information can you provide that will help create a productive and respectful relationship where everyone’s needs are being met?

Your Engagement Leader is available to support you to get involved. You can reach us at pvn@bcpsqc.ca or 1.877.282.1919

PVN is a community of patients, families and caregivers working together with health care partners to improve BC’s health care system.