



Selecting a Patient Partner

Congratulations! You've begun the process of finding a patient partner. Now it's time to get to know one another to see if this work is a great fit for you both.

Step One: What do you want to know?

Connecting with patient partners includes asking the right questions. RSVP responses are the primary tool that health care partners can use when short-listing or selecting patient partners. A few skills, interests and care experience questions are a great place to start. Connecting eligibility criteria to your RSVP questions is important too.

Step Two: Patient partner interest

You have a list of interested patient partners, who have answered your RSVP questions. You can choose a patient partner by going through their answers and identifying the best fit for the aims of the project. You may also want to meet the patient partner and give them a chance to meet you too.

Step Three: Meeting the patient partners

An informal virtual or in-person meeting gives you both the chance to ask questions. Remember, this isn't a job interview but an opportunity to get to know one another! [Sample questions](#) can help guide you in preparing for the meeting. Other useful tips:

- Create a welcoming environment and thank the patient partner for making the time to meet with you. Let them know if you are taking notes to help guide your decisions.
- Provide an overview of the aim of your project, timelines and expectations. Include any important information on a handout if possible.
- Provide opportunities for questions. Engage in a conversation rather than conduct an interview. Keep it casual and most of all, have fun. It's the beginning of a great partnership!
- You can arrange a formal interview and/or panel, however, remember that these are volunteer positions. Creating a relaxing environment means that patient partners will be more interested in working with you and you'll benefit from a diversity of experiences and perspectives!
- Let the patient partner know how long it will take to make your decision.

Step Four: Involve a Patient Partner

Discuss with your team which patient partner you would like to move forward with. Give the patient partner time to decide if they would like to move forward too. If this isn't a good fit, identify reasons for your decision that you can share. This helps patient partners with any future RSVPs they submit.

Questions? The [Health Quality BC team](#) is happy to support you!