

Measuring Effectiveness of Consumer and Community Involvement in Research

Engagement of consumers and community in the health and medical research journey should be meaningful, impactful and not tokenistic.

The following questions provide a guide for researchers to enable assessment of the effectiveness of consumer and community involvement in the various stages of their research:

1. Was there an improved understanding of the trial/research population, its needs and behaviour due to consumer/community involvement?
2. Was there an increased focus by researchers on community and consumer involvement or issues?
3. Was the research question examined for its relevance and appropriateness to patients, consumer and community needs? Did the research question change as a result?
4. Was the research methodology assessed for its relevance and appropriateness to patients, consumer and community needs? Did the methodology change as a result?
5. Was the trial (or other research activity) participation recruitment process assessed for its appropriateness for participants?
6. Did involvement of consumers or community members in planning enable any changes to process or increase likelihood of successful recruitment?
7. Did accountability or transparency change because of consumer/community involvement?
8. Did the potential significance of the project to the target health outcome (or increase in knowledge of basic science):
 - move closer to realisation as a result of consumer/community involvement, or
 - increase the potential gains from the research as a result of consumer/community?