



SEntIneL patient and public involvement (PPI) – role descriptor

What is the project?

The SEntIneL¹ study is investigating whether sampling from indoor surfaces and air can detect viruses and bacteria that cause respiratory illness in care homes. You can read more about the project [here](#).

The project is a collaboration between the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA, formerly PHE), the NHS and the University of Bristol.

What is the purpose of the PPI group?

We want this project to benefit people living and working in care homes, for example by designing samplers that residents like the look of, or tools to help staff keep track of infections in the home.

Who else will be in the PPI group?

As well as people living or working in care homes, the group will include:

- Me (Rachel Kwiatkowska): Epidemiologist based at the University of Bristol. I am leading the SEntIneL project as part of my PhD.
- My supervisor (Derren Ready): Consultant in public health infections, based at UKHSA.
- Carmel McGrath: Qualitative researcher based at the University of Bristol, who has a lot of PPI group experience.

¹ SEntIneL: Sampling the Environment for Infections in Long-term care

What is expected of you as a member of the PPI group?

I would like to work with you throughout my research project to help me understand the needs and preferences of care home residents and staff. You will have experiences and backgrounds that are different to mine, and I want you to challenge my ideas to make my research as useful as possible. I would also like this to be a joint learning experience and will support you if you want to be involved in other aspects of research.

The box below outlines what I ask of group members.

Group member responsibilities

- Ask questions
- Give honest feedback and opinions
- Commit to at least 3 group work sessions over 6 months
- Engage in discussion and work as a team
- Respect others in the group and be open to new ideas
- Be open and transparent about all aspects of the project

My job is to provide you with all the information, time and support you need to take on these responsibilities. You can contact me with any questions or concerns before you decide if you'd like to be involved.

Will you be paid?

You will receive the standard rate of £25 per hour of activity for National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) public contributors. For more information, follow [this link](#).

Meetings will either take place remotely (via Zoom or another online meeting space), or in person if restrictions/ travel costs allow it.

I have a limited PhD budget so will not be able to pay you for time between group activities. I do not expect you to volunteer any additional time.

How and when will you be asked to give input?

The table below outlines key PPI activities with rough timings – dates to be confirmed. You may not need/ want to be involved in every activity.

Activity	Week of:	Length
Introductory meeting - Review SEntIneL information sheets - Thoughts on sampling devices	5 th September	1 hour
Tool development - Review issues with data collection, - Summarise care home data needs - Review & refine data collection tool(s)	26 th September 10 th October	1.5 hour 1.5 hour
Evaluation - Discuss how to assess acceptability of sampling & data collection	7 th November	1 hour
Communication & dissemination - Feedback on SEntIneL reports - Communication/ dissemination strategy	5 th December	1 hour
How results can inform practice - Open discussion on next steps	16 th January	1 hour
Total time reimbursed per person:		7 hours

How to get in touch

Please contact me directly if:

- You have any queries,
- You need the document in another format, or
- You would like to be involved

email rk16826@bristol.ac.uk or call 0117 455 3570.

Thank you for your support