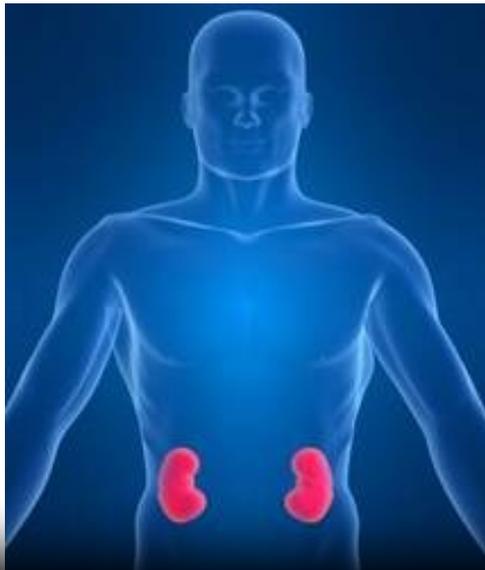


CLAHRC BITE

CLAHRC EoE BITE no 27

January 2019

A bite-sized summary of CLAHRC research: Patients as Partners to Improve Patient Experience in Long Term Conditions Services (PIPPIN study)



“Reflections and Experiences of a Lay Co-researcher”

What?

What do we know about lay co-researchers involved in a non-clinical renal research study?

Who?

A first time lay co-researcher reflects on the impact of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) within a mixed methods renal research study. The study took place in the renal units of two hospitals.

Why?

The reflections, voices and views of those undertaking PPI has been largely under-represented in the literature.

Background:

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) is seen a prerequisite for health research. However, current PPI literature has noted a paucity of recording of PPI within research studies and few in renal medicine. The activities undertaken by someone undertaking a PPI role vary greatly and the role of a co-researcher is largely undefined.

Aim of the study:

The aim is to share one first time lay co-researcher's reflections on the impact of PPI within a mixed methods (non-clinical) study. A retrospective, reflective approach was taken using data available to the co-researcher. Electronic correspondence, meeting notes, minutes and comments on documents were re-examined.

Key findings:

The lay co-researcher evaluated the advantages/disadvantages of her input throughout, the time commitment, and its value and impact. This included leading on the thematic analysis of interview transcripts. The co-researcher reflected that the role evolved, required a significant time commitment and her involvement activities were able to match her skills and strengths. It was noted that there is a need for support/training and that co-researchers need to be involved at the start of a grant application. The co-researcher led on writing a peer-reviewed publication.

Recommendations for practice:

The role of a co-researcher was seen to be rewarding but demanding. It is hoped that the learning from sharing this experience will encourage others to undertake this role, and encourage researchers to reflect on the needs of those involved.

References

Marks, S., Mathie, E., Smiddy, J., Jones, J. and da Silva Gane, M. (2018) Reflections and experiences of a co-researcher involved in a renal research study, *Research Involvement and Engagement*, 4(36). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-018-0120-4>

What is NIHR CLAHRC East of England?

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) East of England is a five year programme of applied health and social care research which focuses on the needs of people with complex problems, often vulnerable, when multiple agencies are involved in their care: young people, frail older people, those with dementia, learning disabilities, acquired brain injuries or mental ill health.

The CLAHRC East of England collaboration encompasses some thirty-six organisations, with research hubs in the Universities of Cambridge, Hertfordshire and East Anglia working closely with individuals and organisations involved in the whole care pathway.

Service users and carers are at the heart of what we do, in parallel with an ambitious public health research programme.

Co-production and collaboration at all stages of the research process are fundamental to making a positive impact through applied health research.

For more information about the study

<https://www.clahrc-eoe.nihr.ac.uk/2014/03/patients-and-service-users-as-research-partners/>

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Disclaimer: The research was funded by the National Institute for Health Research. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

CLAHRC EoE is hosted by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust