

The Sheffield experience of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in the INTEGRATE-HTA project

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Background

More people living with life-limiting illnesses such as cancer and heart disease benefit from palliative care. Palliative care aims to enhance quality of life for patients and families. However, palliative care services vary widely across Europe. An EU-funded project (INTEGRATE-HTA) is developing new Health Technology Assessment methods and testing these in palliative care. Patients and the public in six European countries have been involved in several ways and will continue to do so throughout the project.

Aims

To share reflections on the experiences of the Sheffield PPI representatives involved in INTEGRATE-HTA.

Methods used

In Sheffield, twenty PPI representatives have been advisors in the INTEGRATE-HTA project to date. Two PPI representatives have extended their involvement, participating in a range of project activities using a variety of methods.

Reflections on Patient and Public Involvement

The PPI representatives' reflections on their involvement will focus on the stakeholder advisory meetings; their work on the Sheffield management group; their participation in the project partners' annual meeting and their experience of assisting with evidence reviews. These reflections, and those of the Sheffield research team will highlight the opportunities, benefits and challenges that PPI provides on a large European project. The lessons learned from PPI will also be highlighted.

Conclusions

International PPI potentially plays an important role in shaping European projects. Sheffield's experience suggests that opportunities for valuable PPI need careful consideration of the benefits and challenges for all stakeholders.